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Rozier Family

Genealogy File

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ROZIER

John b. 1603 London, s/o Robert Rozier, Church of England Minister; d. 1660 Westmorland Co., VA.
m. Elizabeth, d/o John Hillier-immigrant

1
John Rozier II m. Mary, d/o James & Anne (Underwood) Williamson

Elizabeth Bridges
prob. d.y.

David

John Williamson
prob. d.y. (female)

m.
Sarah Sherwood

(Note: Sarah, d/o Phillip Sherwood
of Rappahanock.
Eleanor, d/o Abraham Field II.
Anne, d/o Mary Merritt.)

1
David Jr.

(Note: Margaret, sis/o Mary Williamson,
m. Wm. Ball, gr. father of
George Washington.)

m.
Eleanor Field
Anne Merritt

Shadrach
(to Halifax Co.)

Sarah

Reuben b. ca. 1742 NC
m.

Mesheck
(to Halifax Co.)

Mary Lee

Rebecca

Briton
(to Pen/Dist. SC)

David

Reuben Jr. b. 1764 NC
m.

Elizabeth
m. Nathan Musselwhite

John

Patience Musselwhite

Robert

Williamson

Shadrack

Wiley

Charlotte

Martha

m.
Mary (Walker?)
(to Carroll Co., MS by 1840)

John b. 1815
(to TX)

Wm. Milton b. 1819
m. Margaret Doyle
(to California)

Thomas b. 1820

Earl b. 1825

Nelson b. 1829

Alfred b. 1832

Reuben Rosier Sr. & Reuben Jr. were Rev. Soldiers of Robeson Co., NC.

Patience was the d/o Thomas M. & Mary Musselwhite of Robeson Co., NC.

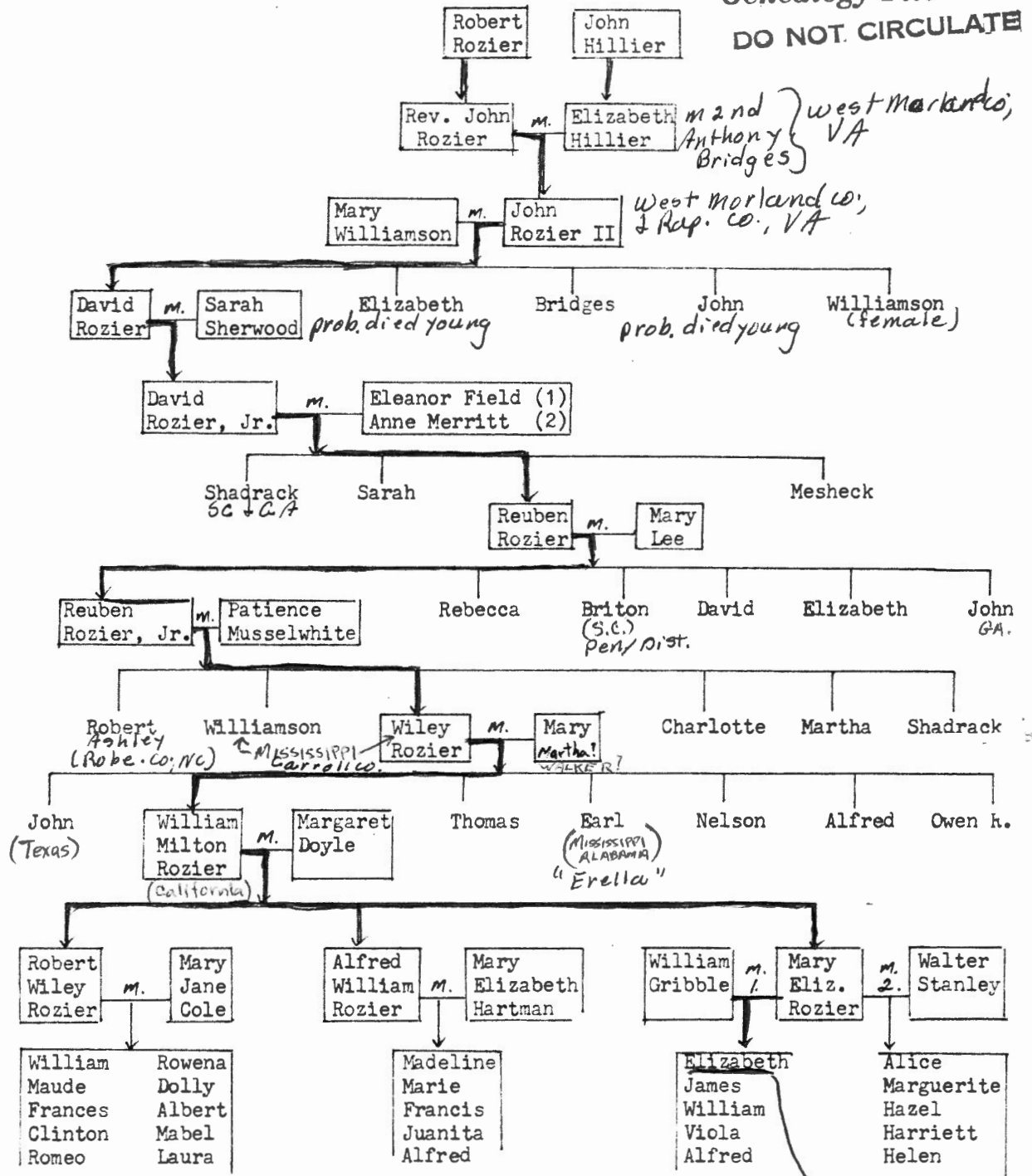
Mary was the d/o John Lee, 3rd cousin of George Washington.

Ref: Research compiled by
Robert O. Schnabel
of Napa, CA. (1986)

For detailed information refer to the Rozier file in the Gen. Section
of the Pascagoula Library, MS.

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THE ROZIER FAMILY OF

VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, MISSISSIPPI, TEXAS, CALIFORNIA, etc.

(Generations following those charted above are detailed on next pages)

Researched & compiled by (1986)

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of Napa, CA 94558 (149 Newell circle)

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1.

The ROZIER FAMILY of

Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi, California

1st generation. Robert Rozier (b. about 1575)

He was born about 1575. He was from a family of traders that came to England about 1520-1550 to escape persecution as French Huguenots. He was a water man which meant that he operated boats on the Thames.

2d generation. Reverend John Rozier. (b. London, 1603; d. Westmorland Co., Va. 1660)

A graduate of Cambridge University, 1627, he was a minister of the Church of England and a tobacco plantation owner in York, Northampton, Northumberland, and Westmorland Counties, Virginia. His plantation, Rozier's Refuge, was across Rozier's Creek from Wakefield, the plantation of the Washington family. He married Elizabeth Hillier. Elizabeth's father was John Hillier "ship's clerk" for the Ark and Dove that landed the first colonists in Maryland in 1634. One child, John II.

3d generation. John Rozier, II. (b. after 1638; d. c. 1705, in Virginia)

A tobacco grower, one of his plantations was Jackman's Folly on the Rappahannock River. He married Mary Williamson a daughter of Anne Underwood and James Williamson, a wealthy merchant. Mary's sister Margaret married William Ball the grand-father of George Washington. Thus, Mary Williamson Rozier was a great aunt to George. Five children: David, Elizabeth, Bridges, John, and Williamson.

credit to the John Rozier in Edgemont Co in 175

4th generation. David Rozier, Sr. (b. ? ; d. in Virginia, 1748)

David, Sr. was a planter and a shoemaker in Sittenbourne Parish, Rappahanock County, Va. His first wife was Sarah Sherwood, daughter of Philip of Rappahanock. A second wife was Margaret (last name unknown). There was one child: David.

5th generation. David Rozier, Jr. (b. 1690 in Virginia; d. 1760 in North Carolina)

He was a tobacco planter. His first wife was Eleanor Field, daughter of Abraham Field II. His second wife was Anne Marritt daughter of Mary Merritt. There were four children: Shadrack, Sarah, Reuben, and Mesheck.

in Halifax Co. 1759-60, 1778

6th generation. Reuben Rozier, Sr. (b. c. 1742 in North Carolina; d. c. 1815 in N.C.)

He was a farmer in Robeson County, North Carolina and a member of the North Carolina Revolutionary Army during the American Revolution. He married Mary Lee (c. 1743 - c. 1815). Mary's father was John Lee, a 3d cousin of George Washington. There were six children: Reuben, Rebecca, Briton, David, Elizabeth, John.

7th generation. Reuben Rozier, Jr. (b. 1764, d. c. 1800 in North Carolina)

He was a farmer in Robeson Co. N. C., and a member of the North Carolina Revolutionary Army. In 1785 he married Patience Musselwhite (1767- c. 1812.). Patience had six brothers and five sisters--two of the brothers fought in the American Revolution. Her father was Thomas M. and her mother was Mary. Reuben, Jr. and Patience were the parents of six children: Wiley, Williamson, Charlotte, Martha, Robert Ashley, and Shadrack. Surnames of families descending from this generation include Rozier, Lewis, McGeachey, Coleman, Helms, Norment, Lytch, Poole, Powers.

*married
Nathan
Musselwhite*
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8th generation. Wiley Rozier (b. 1787 in N.C., died before 1867 in Mississippi)

Wiley Rozier was also known as Willey Rosher, Wiley Rozur, Squire William, and William--the last probably the correct name. He was a farmer in Robeson Co. N. C., then in the mid 1830's moved to Carroll County, Mississippi where he was a farmer, probably of cotton. He married Mary (Walker?) and they had six sons: John (1815) William Milton (1819) Thomas (1820) Earl (1825) Nelson (1829) Alfred (1832) and Owen (?). Decendants are living in Greenwood, Ms. today (Michael, Roy, et al) in Anniston, Alabama (Billy), and Mobile, Al. (Ida Roberson)

9th generation. William Milton Rozier (b. 1819 in N.C.; d. 1893 in Columbia, Ca.)

William M. left Mississippi for Texas in 1837. He was a member of the Army of the Republic of Texas between 1839 and 1842, active in the Texas revolution against Mexico. He was captured by the Mexicans but released in Mexico City in 1842. He held land in Ball County, Texas. He returned to Carroll County, Ms., then went to New Orleans where prior to 1853 he married Margaret Doyle Eastwood. With her and her small child Ann Marie they proceeded to California arriving in Columbia in 1854. They had three children: Robert Wiley, Alfred William, and Mary Elizabeth.

10th generation.

Robert Wiley Rozier (1855-1925). Born in Columbia, lived in Stockton. He married Mary Jane Cole. There were ten children: William, Maude, Francis, Clinton, Roreo, Rowena, Dolly, Albert, Mabel, and Laura. There are at least 115 decendants, most in California, but only about 20 with the surname Rozier.

Alfred William Rozier (1856-1939) Born in Columbia, lived in Sonora, Columbia, Tuolumne, etc. and married Mary Elizabeth Hartman. They had four children: Madeline Rozier Poe of Sonora; Marie Rozier of Tuolumne City; Frances Rozier McNEIL of Vallejo, Juanita Rozier (Sister Claire Antoine) of Modesto; and Alfred who died in infancy. There are a least 13 Poe and McNeal decendants.

Mary Elizabeth Rozier (1859-1924) Born in Columbia, died in San Jose, she lived in Tuolumne Co., Amador Co., southern Oregon, Siskyou Co., and San Jose. She married (1) William Gribble, and (2) Walter Stanley. There were five children of each marriage: Elizabeth Gribble, James Gribble, William Gribble (died in infancy) Viola Gribble, Alfred Gribble, Alice Stanley, Marguerite Stanley, Hazel Stanley, Harriet Stanley, and Helen Stanley. (My mother was Elizabeth Gribble)

Ann Marie Eastwood. She was the daughter of Margaret Doyle Eastwood Rozier by a previous marriage. Not genetically a Rozier, she is genitically related to the Roziers from the 10th generation onward because of the common ancestor Margaret Doyle. Anne Marie married Francis Clinton Cullars. That marriage produced six children. There have been at least sixty-one decendants of Anne Marie Eastwood.

11th through 14th generations

There have been at least one hundred ten decendants of Mary Elizabeth Rozier.

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Rozier Family Origins

It has become clear that by the 1820's there were four (three?) definable Rozier families in North America. In order of appearance in America they were:
1. Roziers of Virginia-North Carolina (1637); 2. Roziers of Maryland (1663);
3. deRoziers of New England and Canada (1700's), and 4. Roziers of Missouri (1810).

In the only published book about the Roziers that could be found (Rosier-Rosebush Family, by Waldo Rosebush) the author states that the Roziers of Maryland and Virginia were the same family. Other sources concur with him; but there is no genealogical proof, yet. I think they were first cousins separated from one another not only by the Potomac River but by the religious problems of the time--the Marylanders were Roman Catholic, the Virginians were Protestant. Originally, they were both Huguenots fleeing from France to England in the 1500's. They were a family of traders with at least one gentleman explorer, James Rozier (b. 1575), who explored the Maine coast in 1605 and lived in Dartmouth, England.

Mr. Rosebush's family (DesRosierres) came from France to New England then to New York and Canada in the 1700's. He claims that they were of the same family that had come from London to Virginia, but were in London only a short time. He places their origin in the region of Tours, Saumur, and Nantes. He also believes that they had migrated there from the Lanquedoc region in the south, specifically the province of Chorreze. In and near that province westerly from the Rhone Valley town of Valence may be found place names that are variations on Rozier (le Rozier, Montrozier, Rosiers). This may be the family place of origin in the dim distant past. The New Englanders and Canadians anglicized their names to Rosebush (some to Bush) probably because of the strained relations between France and England. There are, however, Roziers in New England today.

Ferdinand Rozier came from Nantes to New York in 1810 and settled in Missouri in 1821. He is well documented, as he was the business partner of James Audubon and appears prominently in biographies of Audubon. (William James O'Merlin, Attorney, 1133 Pine St., St. Louis, Mo. is a descendant of Ferdinand)

The surname Rozier appears "in the literature" in at least twenty different ways.

The ROZIER FAMILY of Maryland

1st generation. Colonel Benjamin Rozier (Rosier, Rorer)

He arrived at St. Mary's, Maryland in 1663. He was a tobacco planter and an attorney at law. Two of his plantations were Admirathoria and Basford Manor. He was a widower, maybe with a son also named Benjamin. He married Jane Sewall and this marriage produced a son Notley Rorer. Jane Sewall's mother was Jane Lowe, whose 2d marriage was to Charles Calvert, 3d Lord Baltimore.

2d generation. Notley Rozier (1673 - 1727, Maryland)

Records show that Notley was raised by his grandmother, Lady Baltimore. He was married to (1) his first cousin Jane Digges, and (2) Elizabeth Whentenhall (d. 1733). Notley and Jane had one child, Ann Rozier. Notley and Elizabeth had three children: Henry, Elizabeth and Catherine. Notley Rozier was the godson of

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Thomas Notley, a governor of Maryland. Thomas Notley willed to Notley Rozier several properties that later fell within the bounds of the District of Columbia (Thomas Notley had a sister, Mary, who had been married to Col. Benjamin Rosier and who had died before Benjamin immigrated)

3d Generation. Ann Rozier (1711-1767, Maryland)

Ann inherited large holdings from her father Notley. She married (1) Daniel Carroll (1707-1734) of Duddington and (2) Col. Benjamin Young whom she outlived. From each husband Ann inherited several large tracts of land within the bounds of the future Washington, D. C.

Her first marriage to Daniel Carroll produced three children: Charles Carroll of Duddington, Mary Carroll, and Eleanor Carroll. (Eleanor married Daniel Carroll of Upper Marlboro, "the commissioner" who selected the site of the Federal City.)

Her second marriage to Benjamin Young produced five children: Benjamin, Notley, Henrietta, Ann, Leticia.

Henry Rozier (1725-1802)

Educated in Europe. He was a founder of the Mississippi Land Company along with Benedict Calvert, William and Robert Brent, the Lees and Fitzhughs of Virginia and the Carrolls of Maryland. Purpose was to develop territory in Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. He inherited holdings from Notley Rozier.

His first wife was Eleanor Neale (b. 1728). Their children were: Notley, Henry, Edward, and Thomas.

4th generation. Notley Young.

The son of Ann Rozier and Benjamin Young, he married (1) Jane Digges, and (2) Mary Carroll. As heirs to Ann Rozier's vast holdings Notley Young and Daniel Carroll were the last manorial owners of the vast tract which covered Capitol Hill, Southwest Washington, the Navy Yard, Southeast Washington, a large tract north of Capitol Hill, and the site of the Congressional Library of today. His children: Notley, Jr.; Nicholas; Anne; Mary; Eleanor; and Benjamin. Daughter Mary married Robert Brent who was appointed first mayor of Washington, D. C. by Thomas Jefferson and later re-appointed by James Madison. Decendants of the Young, Brent, and Digges families exist today (Digges family members are the sole proprietors of the Baltimore Sun newspaper). Notley Young was a founder and director of the Bank of Columbia (1800) in Washington, D. C. (were?)

Note: At the present time there are many Roziers living in the small city of Lumberton, Robeson County, North Carolina. Mrs. Maxine Rozier with whom I first corresponded, said that in that community there were four families with the surname Rozier--three white, one black. She also remarked that they "consider themselves unrelated except for way back". The Lumberton phone directory has listings for thirty-eight Roziers. There are also quite a few Roziers with other names.

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Earl Lalenstand Rozier (*Erella*)

He married Mary Ann Pinsons of Smithville, Mississippi.¹ Her father was Joseph Pinson, an early Mississippi settler who came from Alabama. In a History of Carroll Co.², Earl Lalestard Rozier married, on October 5, 1848, Nancy Ann Persons of Alabama, age 21. In "Marriage Records in the Carroll County Court House" by Mrs. O. K. Gee, there is the following entry: Rozier, E. L. and Nancy Hatcher. June 10, 1873.

Earl was the son of Wiley and Mary Rozier of Carroll County, Mississippi. He had six brothers: William M. of Columbia, California; John P. (of Texas?); Owen, Thomas, Alfred, and Nelson. He may have had two sisters: Martha Rozier Mingy and "Polly". E. L. Rozier is listed on the 1860 Carroll County federal census as having been born in North Carolina in 1825. In the Carroll County tax lists of 1855, 1856, and 1857, an E. L. Rozier is listed as a farmer.

In the Civil War lists of Carroll County², Private Earel L. Rozier is listed in Company K., 30th Mississippi infantry; and as E. L. Rozier, Private, Co. A, 3d Mississippi Cavalry; Company C. 3d Mississippi Infantry; and Co. G. 5th Mississippi Cavalry.

Children:^{1,2}

1. - John Paul Rozier. Born in Mississippi about 1852 and known as "Boss" Rozier. John Paul was sheriff of Carroll County for several terms and a sheriff's deputy when not in elected office. On February 27, 1884 he married Sallie Clark, born in Mississippi. Their children, all born in Mississippi were Willie L. Rozier (1886); twins Maude and Mirtle Rozier (1888) and Jerome Rozier (1890).

2. Mary "Molly" Palestine Rozier Atkinson Monday. Known as "Aunt Mammie" her second marriage was to Samuel Spillman Monday, Mayor of Carrollton, Justice of the Peace, and member of the Mississippi Legislature.

3. Florence Virginia Rozier

4. S. H.

5. A. E. (Addie Rozier Scales[?] of Greenwood, Mississippi)

6. Robert "Bob" Rozier, by the second marriage from whom many of the Greenwood Roziers are descended. Robert Rozier's children were: Charlie J. (1885); Vernon; Annie L.; Clint Gee (father of Roy, below); Doc; Ernest; J. V.; and Ida Mae. Ida Mae is Mrs. Lamar Roberson living in Mobile, Ala.

The Greenwood, Mississippi Roziers living there today are:

- a. Roy Rozier, 3510 Kerry, Greenwood, Ms. 38930
- b. Michael Rozier, 225 Quail Trail, Greenwood, Ms.
- c. Jim Rozier. 2117 Taft, Greenwood, Ms.
- d. Ronnie Rozier. 1008 Cypress Lane, Greenwood, Ms.

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Earl Lalenstand Rozier (continued)

Grand Children:¹

William Earl Rozier, Sr., son of John Paul Rozier. He served in France during W.W. I. He was a farmer in Mississippi. He married a widow, Mrs. Mary Lee Oakes. William and Mary were the parents of the following:

Great Grandchildren:¹

William Earl Rozier, Jr. He served with the Army Airborne in the South Pacific and Korea before being transferred to Ft. McClellan near Anniston, Alabama. He married Betty Jo Strange and they had two children. The present address (1985) of William Earl Rozier, Jr. is:

517 Mountain View Road
Anniston, Alabama.

Great Great Grandchildren:¹

The children of William Earl Rozier, Jr. and Betty Jo Strange are Lola Darlene Rozier; and William Houston Rozier. William Houston was the supplier of most of the above information. His address is:

William H. Rozier
137 West 43rd.
Anniston, Alabama, 36206

1. Correspondence with Wm. H. Rozier, Alliston, Alabama
2. Research of Ms. Betty Wiltshire, Carrollton, Mississippi.
3. References at Sutro Library, San Francisco, California

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In addition to Earl Rozier, I've found:

1. Wiley's son Alfred M. Rozier, born in 1832 in North Carolina. He is listed on the 1860 census as A. M. Rozier with wife E. A. and daughter J. A. Daughter born in Mississippi in 1857. Alfred is on the Carroll County tax lists in 1855, 1856, 1857, and 1859.
2. On the 1855 Carroll Co. tax list there is a John K. Rozier and a John J. Rozier.
3. In the 1840 Federal Census of Mississippi a Williamson Rozier is listed in Coahoma County, Ms. Wiley Rozier had a brother (listed on the will of Reuben Rozier, Jr.) named Williamson Musselwhite Rozier. In the 1857, 1858, and 1859 Carroll County tax lists a Williamson Rozier appears. In Greenwood Cemetary, Leflore Co., is Williamson Rozier, Co. C, 5th Ms. Cavalry. 1830-1898. There are other vague references to William and Williams Rozier. Probably these are father and son which suggests two family lines in Carroll Co., one Wiley's and one Williamson's.
4. In the Mississippi Democrat, newspaper, of Carrollton, Ms., on August 11, 1847 is this: "We are authorized to announce William M. Rozier as a candidate for Ranger at the next election." This could be William M. Rozier of Columbia, California just back from Texas and Mexico and before his marriage and move to California.

The problem has been that I havn't found out until recently that county boundaries in Mississippi were realigned after the Civil War and Rozier lands (and records) went from Carroll Co. to Leflore Co.

Those I have corresponded with in Mississippi seem to know little about Wiley's other sons John, Owen, Alfred, Nelson, and Thomas. They may have been Civil War casualties. I'll look for John in Texas, and for Owen in Arkansas.

William Houston Rozier of Anniston, Alabama (and his father, William) seems to be very interested and has promised more detail on the family. I hope he comes up with it but probably wont hear anything until after the Holidays.

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FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF ROZIER

Genealogy of the Rozier Family of Virginia,
North Carolina, Mississippi, California; and the Rosier Family of Maryland

The basis for the information concerning the first seven generations is the notes compiled by Mrs. C. R. Helms of Kansas City, Missouri. Copies of her notes were supplied by Clyde Rozier of Lumberton, North Carolina and by David Dean of St. Pauls, North Carolina. Charles Bethune of Sanford, North Carolina, provided a third similar set of notes in which the family name is spelled Rozar, indicating a different source.

The basis for the information concerning the ninth to fifteenth generations is the records maintained by Ms. Marie Rozier of Tuolumne, California. For many years Marie Rozier has been the family historian, has remained in direct contact with family members, and has kept accurate and detailed records of all concerned. Margaret Rozier Kountz of Las Vegas, Nevada, and William G. Rozier of Kensington, Maryland, also contributed vital information.

The basis for the information concerning the eighth generation and proof of its connection to the seventh generation is research done by the compiler of this paper. Research by the compiler concerning the first to ninth generations produced additional information, and that is included in the following pages. Information concerning the Maryland Rosiers was done by the compiler. Most of the research was done at Sutro Library, San Francisco, California, (a State of California library) or at Napa City and County Library, Napa, California. A bibliography lists research references.

After the eighth generation many family members are not included, mostly those now in the southeastern United States. This is because their names and whereabouts are not known to the compiler. If one were to wait until a 100% all inclusive list could be made, this paper would never be concluded! As further information is uncovered, it will be included.

As for accuracy, it is hoped that this material approaches 100%. However, it is only realistic to admit that some mistakes have probably been made. If one were to wait until perfection were reached, this paper would never be concluded!

R.O.S.
Napa, California

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ORIGINS

After ⁴two years of researching and investigating the genealogy of the Rozier family in the United States, three conclusions have been reached. The first is that before 1820 there were three definable Rozier families living in the United States and Canada. They were, in order of appearance in America:

1. The Rozier family of Virginia-North Carolina,
2. The Rosier family of Maryland,
3. The de Rozier family of New England and Canada, members of which gradually changed their name to Rosebush, and
4. The Rozier family of Missouri.

In his meticulous and exacting 180 page small-print book entitled The Rosier-Rosebush Family⁶(1954) author Waldo Rosebush presents a broad history of his branch of the family which appeared in New England in the 1700's with the name deRosier (DesRosieres) and spread through eastern Canada and the Great Lake states. He did not know of the Missouri family, but he lumped together as one the Virginia and Maryland families. Circumstances suggest that the Virginia and Maryland families were, indeed, one family, probably first cousins. That is the second conclusion which changes the above list of four to a list of three.

It is interesting to note that "in the literature" the Rozier family name appears in many ways: Rozier, Rosier, Rossier, DeRosieres, DesRosieres, Roussiere, Roshar, Rosher, Rozar, Rozer, de Rosier, Roser, Rosiere, Rosyar, Rouziere, Rusier, De Rassieres, then Anglicized to Rosebush which finally gets corrupted to Rosebash and Rosebasch and then shortened to Bush!

Conclusion three is that the European origin of the Virginia-Maryland family was in France with a sojourn in London of around fifty years. Mrs. Helms in her notes quotes family legend that the family came from Alsace-Lorraine. Mr. Rosebush is not sure but thinks the New England group came from around Valence in the Rhone Valley of France by way of Saumer, Nantes, and Paris. Ferdinand Rozier of the Missouri family was from Nantes. Balloonist Pilatre de Rozier was from Metz in Lorraine. Mr. Rosebush thinks that the New England and Virginia-Maryland families are the same family, and that all with the above names were in the distant beginning from the Village of Rosieres, in Loire Province west of Valence and sixty miles southwest of Lyon. Without much studious research in France the answer to the exact place of origin question will probably never be known. A good educated guess would place it in southern France near the town of Valence where three communities exist with the name: Rosieres, in Loire; De Rosier in Correge; and Rozier in Lozere --all westerly from Valence.

(J575-1635)

Probably the first Rosier to visit North America was James Rosier of Dartmouth, England. In New England Sea Journals⁷ appears an article from which the following is extracted: "a gentleman employed in the voyage, born in England, wrote the Sea Journal commencing Mar. 5, 1605 covering a voyage of discovery to North America." "July 18, 1605. A true Relation of the most prosperous voyage made this present yeare 1605 by Capt. George Weymouth in the Discovery of the land of Virginia." This actually was on the coast of Maine. "It abounds in glowing and truthful description of our coast and the manner and customs of the natives as they appeared to them, the first English explorers--". The manuscript

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ORIGINS (continued)

was published in 1605. In Bath, Maine it was republished in 1860 and may be found in Massachusetts Historical Society Collections, Vol. 8, pp 125-187. "James Rosier born in 1575, one of the early English voyageurs to America, with Bartholomew Gosnold in 1602 and with Capt. George Weymouth in 1605."

Quoting Waldo Rosebush: "the Rosebush (Rosier) story is a nebulous thing; but there seems to be a fairly visible trail without definite personal relationships, leading back to Uzes and Nimes in old Languedoc, France--and to the nearby communities DeRosier and Rosier in the present provinces of Chorreze and Lozere, which I think gave name to the family I have set up a lineage table of the DesRosiers family which may have been related in the distant past. They probably came from near Saumur about 140 miles southwest of Paris and about the same distance north of the Province of Chorreze the most likely origin of the de Rosier family."

The lineage table, as far as year 1718, follows on the next page. Since the Maryland-Virginia family is well accounted for by year 1700, the rest of the table does not seem pertinent. The entry in years 1637 and 1697¹⁶⁷⁵ mention two Virginia Roziers, Reverend John and his son John II. As Mr. Rosebush says: "The Rosiers in America were principally in Massachusetts with several in Virginia and the Carolinas. I have listed only two of the latter. They seem too distant from Joseph's line to affect it." "The first two items, years 1571-75 implies that the trader class were among the first to leave France. The religious wars started about 1562. It was easy for traders to get away".

In Potomac Landings^{g1} author Paul Wilstach says that the first white colonization on the Potomac was made in 1634 upon the arrival of Leonard Calvert and his company in two ships, the Ark, 300 tons, and the Dove, 500 tons. They entered the Potomac on March 5th and sailed up about 30 miles. Later, exploration was as far as about 16 miles from the present City of Washington. Although the Indians were friendly, the first settlement was made in an uninhabited area along an estuary not far from Chesapeake Bay. Here they established the capital of the colony, St. Mary's. Benjamin Rosier arrived in 1663 and was a practicing lawyer in St. Mary's by the time Thomas Notley was Maryland governor --1667-69.

It was not from England nor from Jamestown that the first settlers came to the Virginia shore of the Potomac, it was from Maryland. Jamestown settlers considered the Potomac a savage wilderness. While the leaders of Leonard Calvert's St. Mary's settlement were Catholic, they had theoretically established religious tolerance in the colony, but: "Theoretically ideal and sound, practically this toleration worked out in confusion, heartburn, and wrath. Disaffected Protestants did the simple and natural thing, they got out."

They did not have far to go for across the river they easily found a haven with all the natural charm of their late home. They made the first white settlement on the south shore directly opposite St. Mary's. Virginians in Jamestown were oblivious to all this until 1647 when they first collected taxes and named the settlement on the Coan River, Northumberland.

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ORIGINS (continued)

In 1648 the entire Northern Neck (the long peninsula between the Potomac River and the Rappahannock River) was designated Northumberland County only to be divided in 1653 at the Matchoatoke River with the western portion named Westmoreland County. In 1720 that portion of Westmorland lying along the river north and west of a line "directly to Washington's mill on Rosier's Creek and down said creek to Potomack River" was contributed to the new county of King George.

Northhampton County Records,^{2b} p. 259 show that John Rozier was appointed a minister on the Eastern Shore in 1640. (The Eastern Shore and Northhampton County are on that part of the long peninsula across Chesapeake Bay that is now shared by Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware). He stayed there about seven years and then the records show that^a he owned property in 1650 in Northumberland County. While the Catholic records in St. Mary's were well preserved, none of the Protestant records survived. Since Reverend Rozier joined the Coan River settlers, who originated in St. Mary's, after a seven year sojourn in Northhampton County, it seems quite likely that he could have been one of the original settlers at St. Mary's.

Mr. Rosebush refers to Joseph Rosier as the first of his New England family in America. His parents were Jean de Rosier and wife Susanne le Masson born in Paris or in the Province of Correze in 1670-75. Joseph was born in London in 1738. When he arrived in America is not mentioned, but he married Hannah Hart in 1759 and lived in Ballton, N. Y. (Mohawk Valley).

Well documented Ferdinand Rozier arrived in New York from Nantes in 1810. By 1820 he was established in St. Genevieve, Missouri.

James Hillier, father-in-law of Reverend John Rozier, arrived with the the Ark and Dove in St. Mary's in 1634.

In addition to the above mentioned communities as possible Rozier origins, a search of several modern Atlases revealed the following:

Rosieres aux Salines, 25 miles south of Metz, 5 miles south of Nancy.
Rosieres en Blois, 20 miles south of Nancy.
Rosieres en Santerre, 60 miles north of Paris, 15 miles east of Amiens.
Rosiers, in Correze Province.
les Rosiers, 10 miles N.W. of Saumur, 40 miles west of Tours.
le Rozier, 26 miles S.E. of Rodez, 75 miles S.W. Valence.
Montrozier, near Rodez, 50 miles east of Toulouse, 60 miles west of Valence.
Rosieres, 5 miles east of Charleroi, 25 miles S.E. of Bruxelles, Belgium.
Cape des Rosiers, on the Gaspe Peninsula, Quebec, Canada.

In Huguenot Emigration to America:^{2a} "A few emigrants from Montpellier (Languedoc), with their families, reached South Carolina . . . Francois de Rosserie . . . et al". In New England Genealogical & Historical Register,³⁰ Vol. 90: "As early as 1627, DeRasieres, the French Huguenot secretary of the West India Company Dutch Government at Manhattan, visited Manouch, the trading post established by the Plymouth Colony.

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A Bridge to France

Documentary Records, Years 1571 to 1787

Ref. Bibliography Items 82, 87, 88, 89, 90, 109, 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115.

In order to get a more compact picture of and the possible relationship between all Rosiers et al mentioned in the Huguenot records, the names have been listed below chronologically by years with a brief note of the cause for each: birth, marriage, witness etc.

While reference above is made to Revolutionary War Items 109 and 115, the names listed therein are not included in the comments.

Year	Notes
1571-5	"John Rosyar, brokar, born in Valencia (probably Valence on the Rhone River, France). Hath byn here XIIIj years; he cam for religion and is of the Frenche churchc."
Do.	"John Rosier, merchant of Doucheland (Holland); been in England X years & sojourneth in the house of one Ellis, merchant." (The above is from Aliens in London, St. Andrews, Hubbard's Parish, Billingsgate Ward. The earliest record is 1521. The bulk of the following is from the Huguenot Society of London, Church records and Registers, mainly baptisms and marriages. Information from other, mostly secular sources, marked†.
1581	Abraham Rosier, J.f. chez G. Herson.
1605	James Rosier, Dartmouth, Devon County, England, born 1575.
1606	"My grandchild Simon Rosier" (Francis Cole, E. Bergholt, Suffolk)
1617	Jonas Rosier, baptized, Threadneedle Church.
1618	Julian de Rusier, silkweaver, born in London.
1622	John Rossier, agent for Mr. Palmer and other merchants.
1627	De Rassieres, French Huguenot Sec'y of West India Co.
1637	John Rosier, clerk, age 34, witness.
1640?	John Rosier, ministerial duties, employed Eaton etc.
1651	George Rosier, witness, will of George Rayment, Somerset.
1658-91	Philip Rosier, Deacon, Waloos Church of Norwich.
1675	John Rosier, witness, will of Lawrence Washington, Essex Co. †
1685	Jean Rosier, sponsor, Threadneedle Church.
1691	Susanne Rosier, sponsor.
1695	LeCointe: Marie Elizabeth, dau. Isaac and Susanne Rosier.
1696	Isaac, son of Isaac LeCointe and Susanne Rosier.
1697	Marriage—Church of LeCarre & Berwick St., Marc Rossiere of Uzes, Languedoc and Miss Marguerite Enriette le Coute of the City of Paris, by Mr. Pujolas, Minister; license of Archbishop of Canterbury. Sponsors Mr. Hauteville, Deacon of this Church and Mr. Andre Malic, druggist, of Nimes, Languedoc.
1697	John Rosier, witness to the will of Lawrence Washington of Westmoreland County, Virginia. †
1700	Jean (John) de Rossieres, godfather.
1703	Rouziere: Abraham, son of John and Susanne le Masson.
1703	Petro Rossiere—Naturalized.
1704	John de Rossieres, son of Peter de Rossieres by Gentil his wife, born in Uzes, Languedoc. Naturalization †
1706	Rosier: "Susane, daughter of John and Susane."
1708	Rozier: Marthe, dau. John Rozier and (wife) Susane Masson.
1708	Anne Rosier, godmother at baptism.
1709	Anne Rosier, sponsor, Threadneedle Church.
1710	"Margurite" Rosier, godmother.
1711	Marguerite Roszier, "
1715	Marguerite Henriette Rossiere, godmother to Henriette LeC.
1715	Henriette Roussiere, godmother to Henriette Sanxay.
1716	Francoise Rossiere, godmother to Isaac Le Compte.
1717	Henriette, dau. of Pierre Roussiere.
1718	Francis Rossiere, witness.
1718	Sarah Dean, dau. Seth & Mary (Rosier) Dean, Swansea. †

*Above from the Rosier-Rosebush Family, by Waldo Rosebush, 1951
Two copies at Sutter Library, San Francisco*

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Note on back of prior page

1637 } Reverend John Rozier I
1640 }

1675 } John Rozier II
1697 }

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30. John ROSIAR of Glastonbury, Sommerset, England. In Journal #8 of the Huguenot Society of London in an article entitled Denizations and Naturalizations of Aliens in England, 1509-1603 (granting of English citizenship, dates of) are listed four Rozier names. In the Journals, countries named are from where the immigrant departed the continent. Names are:

1. Rosiar, John. From the Dominion of the Emperor (Germany) 31 Dec. 1551. Came over with Valerandus Pollanus and settled at Glastonbury.
2. Rosier, John. Dutchman, victualer, dwelling in Billingsgate Ward, London. Elizabeth.
3. Rosyer, Denys. Born in Normandy. In England 12 years. 1 July 1544.
4. Rosyer, James. From the dominion of the King of Spain. 9 March 1562.

I believe that John Rosiar is the ancestor of Colonel Benjamin Rosier of Maryland, and that John Rosier is the father of Robert Rozier of London, and the grandfather of Reverend John Rozier of Virginia. Such a belief is bound up in the relationship to each other of three men: Benjamin Rosier, Thomas Notley, and George Thompson. The belief can be extrapolated from the following:

George Thompson lived in County Sommerset and was married into the Doddington family that owned large holdings including Doddington Manor in that county. He was the first owner of land along the Potomac river in Maryland where the City of Washington was later to be created. He named his Maryland estate Duddington Manor. He later deeded Duddington Manor to Thomas Notley.

Thomas Notley lived in County Dorset and spent his youth on and near an estate known as Cerne Abbey Manor. Later, in Maryland, Thomas Notley upon receiving title to Duddington Manor changed its name to Cerne Abbey Manor. Thomas Notley had a sister, Mary Notley, who was married to Benjamin Rosier while both were living in England. Upon his death, Thomas Notley willed title to Cerne Abbey Manor to his god-son Notley Rosier, son of Benjamin Rosier.

Benjamin Rosier, according to early Maryland records, is known to have immigrated in 1663 and to have been transported in 1668. Immigration meant that the immigrant paid his own way. Transported means that someone other than the immigrant paid for the passage. Most records state that Benjamin Rosier was a widower at the time of his immigration. One obscure record, however, records the birth in the 1670's of "Mary, to Benjamin and Mary Rosier." This confuses, and causes conjecture as to the identity of the person "transported" in 1668. Benjamin Rosier's son, Notley, was born in Maryland. His mother was Anne Sewall. The identity of the 1668 could have been another family member not recorded in the records. Notley returned the original name Duddington to Cerne Abbey Manor

Cerne Abbey Manor, Dorset, and Glastonbury, Sommerset, while in different counties are only about twenty miles apart. John Rosiar is known to have settled in Glastonbury. Benjamin Rosier in order to court and marry Mary Notley would have had to reside in close proximity to her residence. If Benjamin Rosier lived in Glastonbury, he was certainly close enough. And if Benjamin lived in or near Glastonbury, he was probably a descendant of John Rosiar. No other Roziers are known to have lived in this area at that time.

Benjamin Rosier's date of birth is unknown, but as a contemporary of Thomas Notley, it was probably early in the 1600's. John Rosiar's "denization" in 1551

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would suggest that his birthdate was at least twenty or more years earlier. These two facts make fairly good evidence that John Rosiar was the grand-father, not the father, of Benjamin Rosier. It also conjures the thought that the transported individual of 1668 might have been the father, also named Benjamin.

In his book, author Waldo Rosebush states that all the French immigrants to England with the name deRosier (and other variations) were of the same family and had come to England from the region of Saumur in the Loire River Valley about 175 miles southwest of Paris. They had earlier come there to escape religious persecution from the Languedoc region in the south of France. Some came to England direct from France, others via Germany, others via the Netherlands. Rosebush, who changed his name from deRosier, states specifically, that the Maryland family and the Virginia family were of the same family back in The Loire --and that is all he says about them. One other bit of evidence as to the connection between the two families is cited at the end of Section 31.

Lacking any proof or evidence otherwise, I can only think that John Rosiar is the earliest known ancestor of the Rosiers of Maryland, and that the connection with the Roziers of Virginia is in Saumur one or two generations earlier.

31. John ROSIER of Billingsgate, London, England. Reverend John Rozier, earliest Rozier immigrant to Virginia, was born in London in 1603 and migrated to Virginia about 1640. He is well documented. The father of Rev. Rozier was Robert Rozier whose date of birth is unknown, but if one considers the length of an average generation to be 25 to 30 years, a guess would place Robert Rozier's birth date to be about 1575.

From the list of four Roziers in Journal #8 (above) I have chosen the second listed John Rosier as the most likely to be the father of Robert Rozier and therefore the earliest known ancestor of the Virginia-North Carolina Roziers.

In Mr. Rosebush's book, he not only states that the Marylanders and the Virginians were of the same family, but he says that "they were from a family of traders" and that "of all groups, it was easiest for traders to escape". Since John Rosier is known to have been a victualer (grocer) and known to have lived in Billingsgate Ward, he easily qualifies as a trader. Billingsgate in the 1500's was a main dock on the Thames river where much trading, domestic or foreign, was carried on. Billingsgate Ward was the surrounding residential area.

It is documented that Robert Rozier was a "waterman". Watermen historically transported passengers and freight up and down and across the Thames. The headquarters of the Watermen's Guild was at that time, as it is today, located in Billingsgate Ward and the dock at Billingsgate was a center for Watermen activities. Thus, Robert Rozier could have been a resident of Billingsgate; and as such could have been the son of John Rosier. Robert Rozier was able to send his son, Reverend John Rozier, through Cambridge University which fact suggests a stable family as well as a family of means.

In Virginia one reference, "Rev. Rozier departed Virginia to join his kinfolk in Maryland", is the only record of a possible connection between the two families. However, one or two generations back from John Rosier of Billingsgate, in Saumur, France, is probably the genetic connection between the Marylanders and the Virginians.

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ROZIERs in the Revolutionary War

From references on file at Sutro Library, San Francisco:

Certificates of Service in American Revolution. Georgia

Shadrack Rozer. From Halifax County, North Carolina
John Rozer. January 25, 1785
Edward Rozer. January 25, 1785

Revolutionary War Records. Virginia. Brumbaugh. (Washington, D.C.)

"Reuben Rosser stated that he was in the militia service of the State of Virginia in the summer and fall of 1781 when the Marquis La Fayette was commander of the forces; that he was at Richmond, at Malborn Hills, at Williamsburg, at Green Spring, Hot Water, Jamestown and at the seige of York, when Cornwallis and the British forces under his command were captured on October 19, 1781."
(It is not stated whether this is Reuben, Sr., or Reuben, Jr.)

Pension List of 1818

South Carolina. William Rozier, pvt.

Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution.
Daughters of the American Revolution. Durham, North Carolina.

In Perces Register: 91353 Rozier, Daniel
 91369 Rozier, David
 90943 Rozier, John

1st Regiment. Col. Thomas Clark: Rozer, Jordan, Pvt.
 Rozer, Charles, Pvt.

Army Accounts, Vol. II, N. C. #2469: Charles Rozier

Army Accounts, Vol. V. N. C. #4559: Robert Rosiar, Wilmington District.

List from Onslow County, N. C. #113. Charles Rosier, Hillsborough Dist.

Abstract of N. C. Army Accts: #2469 Charles Rosier
 #2482 Jordan Rosier

Roll of Capt. Joshua Bowman's Light Infantry, Sept. 1778: #22 Thomas Rozer.

Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution. B. G. Moss.
Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore.

Rosier, Mesheck (Meseck) He served 18 months in the 6th Regiment under Captain Henry Richborough during 1777-1778. In addition he served 122 days in the militia from 3 Feb. to 4 June 1781; and 68 days in 1782 under Gen. Marion.

- continued -

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Rozar, Robert. Born 1756 in Halifax County, North Carolina. He served in North Carolina units. He moved to Georgetown Parish during the winter of 1781-1782 and enlisted under Capt. Huston and Col. Harry. He later moved to Georgia.

Rozar, William. Died 3 October 1821. Married Chloe Brown on 14 November, 1778. Enlisted in 1st regiment on November 4, 1775 under Capt. Thomas Rinckney while residing in Marion District. He re-enlisted Nov. 1777, Feb. 1780, and Sept. 1782. Became a corporal on 31 December 1776 and was promoted to sergeant in April 1778. Enlistment expired January 1783.

(The Marion District-later county--of South Carolina is directly across the state line from Lumberton, N. C. William is listed in the 1820 census of Marion County, but in 1830 only his wife Chloe is listed)

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Genealogy file DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

1st Generation, Robert Rozier.

He is the earliest Rozier that can be connected to this family as he appears in Colonial Clergy of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina compiled by Rev. Frederick Lewis Weiss, Boston, Massachusetts. Weiss was the historian for the Society of the Descendants of Colonial Clergy in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. On page 44 of that book is the following notation: "John Rozier, Episcopal Minister, born in London, England, ca. 1604, the son of Robert Rosier." In the notes of Mrs. Conrad R. Helms there is a handwritten notation:² "documented evidence by the late Katie Biggs of Lumberton (N.C.) stated in the Musselwhite clan book (in Lumberton library) that Rev. John's father was Robert Rozier of London. Thus Robert Rozier had to have been born in the 1500's." In Mrs. Helms' notes he is also referred to as Robert of London, Waterman, and Robert Waterman Rozier. In the Lewis notes concerning Rev. Rozier, 'John' is referred to as: "son of Robert of London, Waterman."³ See Addenda on back of this page concerning "watermen"

Is there significance to the word 'waterman'? name or occupation?
Speculation: In the early history of London, 'watermen' played an important role. They were the boatmen on the River Thames who ferried people and cargo up and down and across the river; for some, a thriving business. Thus, Robert could have been a waterman successful enough to afford for his son, John, an education at Cambridge University.

2d Generation. Reverend John Rozier

Rev. John was born in London, England, in 1603 and died in Westmoreland County, Virginia, in 1660. Records have not yet been found revealing where he first debarked in America nor at what date. There are, however, ample records documenting his career as an Episcopalian minister (at that time officially known as the Church of England) a clerk, and a planter and tracing his movements through Virginia. Life in those days in the colonies was abundant and bountiful as the forest provided timber for housing, the rivers and seas were teeming with fish "that could be caught with the frying pan", and wild turkeys and other birds as well as small game and deer were more than plentiful. The ground was fertile producing large crops. The staple was Indian corn, forerunner of our modern corn ('corn' back in England was wheat) and the cash crop was tobacco. Horses, cows, and pigs thrived; the land so productive that hogs were sometimes allowed to graze unrestricted and only rounded up when Virginia Baked ham was needed for the table! Reverend John Rozier married Elizabeth Hillier prior to October 12, 1657 and they had one son, John Rozier, Jr. (Elizabeth married again to Anthony Bridges)

John Hillier, father of Elizabeth came to Maryland with the ships Ark and Dove, landing at St. Mary's in March 1634. On shipboard he served as secretary to Father White (a Jesuit Priest) and kept the ship's log. He was later a lawyer and a Commissioner in Virginia. In a List of The Ark and The Dove Passengers, compiled by The Society of The Ark and The Dove is: "John Hillierd, 1633, Warrants --Lib. 1, p. 166, Planter - Md. Arch. Vol. 4, p. 4."⁴

In her notes, Mrs. Helms quotes Bruce's Institutional History of Virginia,⁵ Colonial History of Virginia,⁵ and Virginia History Magazine,⁶ Vol. V, as follows:

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ADDENDA to Generation 1, Robert Rozier, Waterman.

In London's River, author Philip Howard says the following about watermen:

Pg. 143-146: "Bridging the Thames has been a controversial matter since the Romans arrived. New bridges made north-south communications easier. But they harmed the vested interests of such bodies as the watermen, who ferried travellers across the Thames About 1564 the use of coaches in England showed a marked increase. Not surprisingly, the London watermen who had been making their living by ferrying people and goods on the Thames since the early Middle Ages, objected to this innovation that threatened their livelihood. Stow claimed in what was probably a wild exaggeration, that there were 40,000 watermen and those that lived and were maintained by them. John Norden gave the same number in 1594, but the included stevedores, porters, boat-builders and associated trades. A common accident of watermen was being pressed into the navy"

"The watermen generally carried their passengers in wherries of six or eight oars. Charges were higher for journeys against the tide, and watermen received a bonus for a barge beneath the bridge', the hazzardous shooting of the rapids between the piles of London Bridge--prudent passengers debarked and rejoined the wheerie at the farther side. Watermen were renowned for their insolence and scurrility."

Pg. 161-162. "In honor of the accession of George I in 1716, a race among watermen was instituted and has been rowed annually ever since."

Page 66. "Early in the 1800's a boat racing rivalry commenced between Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Professional Thames watermen coached and coxed the crews in those early, golden days of amateur rowing. They were the only men who knew how to row and also understood the twists, currents, and tides of the river. The amateurs of Oxford and Cambridge gradually evolved their long smooth stroke, quite different from the short, choppy stroke that was the most efficient propulsion for the heavier boats of the watermen. Moreover the watermen were implacably addicted to fouling. This practice had none of the perjorative connotation that it carries today. Fair was foul and foul was fair, and obstructing ones rival was considered a legitimate and important tactic."

Pg. 234. "The Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames is still responsible for licensing people to navigate on the tideways. Today (1975) the Company has about 2,500 members of whom all but 200 are journeymen. The 200 are mainly owners of craft on the Thames."

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VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

2d Generation. Reverend John Rozier (cont.)

"Son of Robert of London, Waterman, admitted Sizar (age 15) et Caius College, Cambridge, February 9, 1619-20. Matriculated, 1620. B.A., 1623-24. M.A. 1627. Minister of Cheskick and York Parishes, York County, 1640, Circa, Minister of Hungar's Parish, Northampton County, 1644, Circa."

The following references are arranged in chronological order in an attempt to trace the career of Rev. John during his life in Virginia.

In the Encyclopedia of Virginia Biographies⁷ is: "Rozier, Reverend John, came to Virginia about 1638, when he was made by Harvey minister of the parishes of Chiskiack and York to supply the vacancy caused by the banishment of Reverend Anthony Panton. After the return of Rv. William Cotton, minister of Accomac in 1640. After seven years he removed to Westmorland County, where he was minister till his death. He married Jane Hillier and left a son, John." The first mention of John Rozier in literature appears (from the Lewis notes) on page 93 of Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight (County) by Bodie:⁸ "26 June 1637 . . . witness John Rozier . . . aged 34." This would establish his birth year as 1603.

Two other early references to a John Rozier are in The Rosier-Rosebush Family: 1. In New York Genealogical and Biological Record is "John Rosier, clerk, age 34, testified as witness to a will (1637)." 2. In New England Genealogical and Historical Register is "John Rosier engaged in ministerial duties, employed Nathaniel Eaton as assistant. Eaton was the first principal of the school that later became Harvard University." These two references place John in New York and in Massachusetts, locations which would conflict with the reference above and with another that follows. *not only the references*

In The Rosier Rosebush Family⁹ the author says "In an effort to get the Rosier connecting link between Europe and America many passenger lists between 1700 and 1750 were examined, (too late, of course) various organizations were contacted, and finally a professional genealogist in Boston was engaged". She investigated records in Virginia and Maryland and following are extracts from her correspondence and notes:

"Enclosed are two pages of rather scattering notes concerning persons of this name (Rosier) who were early in Virginia and Maryland. Various references connect the section with New England; mention is made of it being a refuge for New Englanders; a list of names of neighbors of Rev. John Rosier includes that of John Lord, brother of Richard Lord of Hartford, etc."

"Because these Rosiers seem to carry the stamp of people long in England, like the James Rosier who in 1602-6 made voyages to America, rather than French Protestant refugees, I haven't given them much attention. Some Rosiers who were traders, went to England for religious reasons as early as 1580 . . . While these Rosiers in Virginia and Maryland may have been Huguenots, if I had to go elsewhere than New England for family origins, I would pick as more likely the Carolinas where Huguenots did colonize."

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VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

2d Generation. Reverend John Rozier (cont.)

"Of course by not finding any record of their arrival in New England, any other hypothesis may be valid but on the basis of present data, it seems likely there is simply a gap in the records of immigrants to New England, which includes the arrival of Rosiers".

"The Notes on Rosiers in Virginia and Maryland follows:"

"Colonial Churches in the original colony of Virginia states: Mr. Cotton died in 1645. Rev. John Rozier succeeded Mr. Cotton. 'An old colonist, in his will, speaks of this gentleman as 'Deare and respected friend'."

"In 1639 Nathaniel Eaton, first principal of Harvard, came in Nele's barque to Virginia, where he married Anne Graves. Ea ton became Rozier's assistant, but fled to England in 1646. By the Assembly's Act of 1639-40 ministers of the gospel were allowed ten pounds of tobacco per poll to pay their clerk and sexton." (See next page quote from Ye Kingdom of Accawmacke)

In Studies of the Eastern Shore in the 17th Century author Susie Ames compiles the following records:

"At times the pulpits of the Church of England were filled by non-conformists. Among these may be included the name of John Rosier, a minister living in Northampton in the 1640's"

In Northampton County Records, p. 259: "(Cotton, probably the second minister at Eastern Shore, died in 1640 and was followed by) John Rozier a popular and efficient rector . . . every reason to believe Rozier a non-conformist and more acceptable to the Puritans who comprised a large element . . . of the populations of the penninsula."

Northampton County Records, Book #2: "John Rosyer, 200 acres. 1646."

Northampton Co. Records, Vol. II: "Rozier minister of Hungar's Parish for about seven years --only recurrence of name is that of Col. Benjamin Rozier who married a step-daughter of Charles Calvert."

In William and Mary Quarterly Historical Magazine: "John Rosier minister formerly of Northampton Co. married Elizabeth, daughter of John Hillier (Hilliard) a servant of Father White, frequently mentioned in the Maryland records. He had John Rosier, junior. The widow Elizabeth married (2) Anthony Bridges, clerk of Westmoreland County.

In William and Mary Quarterly: "It is rash to say Rev. John Rozier disappeared from Eastern Shore records . . . the fact is Rev. John Rozier did not remove to Maryland . . . he went to Westmoreland County where his name occurs in the records frequently." (See next page quote from Ye Kingdom of Accawmacke)

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In Cavaliers and Pioneers,⁴⁶ Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants. 1623-
by Nell M. Nugent. Dietz Printing Co., Richmond, Va. 1934: 1800

Patent Book #2. Mr. John Rosier (Roseir), 550 acs. Northumberland Co.,
2 Oct. 1650, p. 274. Abutting Ely, upon the Bay side thay leads up
a creek called by natives Attapin Cr., and on Westernmost Side of the
Easternmost Swamp next Petomack River, etc. Trans of 11 pers: Richard
Whitting, Fra. Hues, Tho Deane, John Grubb, Joan Harvey, James Taylor,
Eliza Beck, Jam Turner, Mary Dollar, Mary Burgis, Eliza Rosier. (is
this the record of John bringing his wife to Virginia?)(or mother?)

Pat. Book #5. Elizabeth and John Rosier, 920 acs. N'umberland Co.
18 March 1662, p. 250 (180) N.E. upon Potomeke Riv. N.W. upon land
of Thomas Peaks and small branch of Up. Machotick Riv. & S.E. upon
Land of Thomas Boyce. Granted to John Hillier 19 Oct. 1653 and by
his will given to the above named.

Pat. Book #4. John Rosier, Clerke, 1050 acs. Westmorland Co. 14 Jan. 1656,
P. 50 (75). On N. W. side of Nomeny Riv. neare a branch dividing this
from land surveyed for Lewis Burrill, decd., now in possession of Capt.
Robert Henfield. 500 acs. by patent to Major Lewis Burrell 17 Nov.
1650, assigned to Thomas Yeowell, who assigned unto Rosier & 250 acs.
for trans. of 5 pers: Tho Ardington, George Spell, Wm. Cowdery,
John Lawrence, Andrew Payne.

Pat. Book #3. John Rosyer (Rossier) 700 acs. Northumberland Co. 19 Oct.
1653 p. 37. Upon N.W. side of Nomeny Riv., beg upon a small branch
which divides this & land surveyed for Major Lewis Burwell, dec'd,
extending w. by n. parallel to sd. River upon a tract surveyed
for Thomas Youl.

Pat. Book #2. Mr. John Rosyer, 200 acs. Northampton Co. neare Kings Creek,
July 10, 1646, Pg. 69. Bounded on N. by part of
an ancient grant made to Capt. Epps, on W. by main bay and on S.
by land formerly belonging to matthew Petts.

Pat. Book #1. Cheney Boyse, 1550 acs Chas City Co., last of May 1636, p. 352
. . . . and 1450 acs for transport of 29 pers: Morigin Rosier . . .
(who is -was- Morigin Rosier?)

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VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

2d Generation. Reverend John Rozier (cont.)

In The Social Life in Virginia in the 17th Century,¹⁰ author Bruce says:
"Among the few Frenchmen arriving at any early date in Virginia . . . 1619 . . .
at a later period, about 1652 we find in Northumberland County a family of Roziers".

In Northumberland Co. Book #2: "John Rosier, 550 acres. 1650." and in
Northumberland Co. Book #3: "John Rosyer, 700 acres. 1653."

In Early Virginia Immigrants,¹¹ George Cabell Greer lists: "The first
mentioned name in every instance is the immigrant and the name following the
word 'by' is the patentee or party bringing him over:

Rosier, Eliza 1650 by John Rosier, Northumberland Co.

Rosier, Mergan 1637 by Cheyney Boynes, Charles City Co."

In Northampton County records, Vol. II: "John Rosier later went to West-
moreland, patenting in 1657 on the Potomac River, 1450 acres and giving to his
plantation the name ROSIER'S REFUGE."

In Westmorland Co., Book #4: "John Rosier, clarke. 1040 acres, 1656."

In Virginia Colonial Abstracts,¹² Vol. 23. Westmorland County, 1653-1657.

"John Rosier, Clerk, is granted patent for 700 acres in Northumberland
County on N. W. side of Nominy River in return for other lands assigned to Edmund
Brent. Elizabeth Rosier, wife of John Rosier relinquishes her rights."

"John Rosier files his mark for hogs and cattle. 5 June 1657."

"5 June 1657. John Hiller, Gent., gives to John Rosier, the younger,
a cow 'which my late wife desired me to give unto him'."

"Patent, 14 January 1656. Edward Digges, Esq. to John Rozier, Clerke.
1050 acres in Westmorland Co. on N.W. side of Nominy River, etc." "John Rosier
assigns fore going patent to Mr. Edmund Brent, merchant. Mrs. Elizabeth Rosier
wife of John Rosier assigns her interest to above."

In William and Mary Quarterly: "John Rosier a witness to will
of Nathaniel Pope, dated 16 May, 1659."

In Ye Kingdom of Accawmacke or the Eastern Shore of Virginia in the
Seventeenth Century,¹³ J. C. Wise. (Bell Book and Stationery Co.) Richmond,
Virginia, 1911, the following account appears:

"Cotton's successor was John Rozier, a popular and efficient rector.
One of his parishioners referred to him in his will as 'deare and respec-
ted friend,' and John Holloway, a physician, bequeathed to him a Greek
Testament. The new minister seems to have had no great difficulty in
collecting his tithes and winning the support of the parishioners for

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Rozier Family

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

2d Generation. Reverend John Rozier (cont.)

the church. In 1663, William Burdett left by his will five pounds sterling to the lower parish for the purchase of a Communion Cup and Plate.

"While we are uncertain about Cotton's inclinations, we have every reason to believe that Rozier was more or less of a non-conformist and more acceptable to the Puritans, who comprised so large an element in the population of the peninsula at this time.

"We have seen that in 1642, the dissenters of Virginia had sent to England for pastors, who at first were permitted to spread their doctrines among the colonists, and it is possible that Rozier slipped into the ministry of Hungar's Parish, before steps were taken by the Assembly in 1643 to oust non-conformist preachers from the colony. Mather and Winthrop both tell us that while the state silenced the dissenting ministers by Acts of Assembly and by proclamations of the intolerant Berkeley, yet they were enthusiastically received by the people, who, since their liberal pastors were forbidden to preach in the parish churches, held services in their homes.

"The presence of large numbers of Puritans in Virginia was undoubtedly known throughout New England, and in 1639-40, when the Assembly made an allowance from the tithes, of ten pounds of tobacco per poll, to enable the minister to hire a vestry clerk and sexton, we are told that Nathaniel Eaton, first principal of Harvard College, became the incumbent of the new office on the Eastern Shore.

"In 1639, Nathaniel Eaton, who had been master of the college, or school, at Cambridge, was ousted from his office by the authorities. It seems that he and his wife made themselves most objectionable and that he had been guilty of certain irregularities for which he was convented and censured by the General Court at Boston. (One of Eaton's students was severely beaten and subsequently died. Eaton was tried and convicted of murder and fled from Massachusettes to Virginia --R.O.S.)

"For other flagrant offenses, the church at Cambridge took a hand in the proceedings, but before it could deal with him the wily Eaton fled to Pascataquack, to which place he was pursued by the Governor and apprehended. Eaton had already placed his effects upon Captain Neale's Bark, bound for Virginia, and received permission to go aboard the ship, with three guards, to get his belongings. In a most dexterous manner, he left two of the guards upon the shore, threw the other overboard, escaped to the ship in a small boat and set sail for Virginia. He was excommunicated by the New England Church. He left his termagant of a wife behind.

"Exactly when Eaton arrived in Accomac is not known, but soon after his flight from New England he appears as Parish Clerk, and assistant to Mr. Rozier in his ministerial duties. . . . Eaton's career was chequered and he was often in conflict . . . One dispute was settled when the arbitors

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VIRGINIA- NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

2d Generation. Reverend John Rozier (cont.)

decided that Rozier should pay 600 pounds of tobacco to Eaton, and that the vestry should make good the payment to the minister. . . . Eaton's first wife and child were lost at sea. . . . He deserted his second wife.

"During the ministry of Mr. Rozier, the County was not only renamed, but was divided into two parishes by Act of Assembly of March 18, 1642. The origin of the name Hungar's has been undetermined. It has been said that a parish in Northamptonshire, England, bore a similar name, and as the name first appears on the Eastern Shore about the time the name of the County was changed to Northampton, the origin may thus be explained.

"Rozier was the minister of Hungar's Parish for about seven years. What became of him we do not know, but it is likely that the good man moved to Maryland, for the only recurrence of the name Rozier in the early colonial records of the various colonies is that of Colonel Benjamin Rozier (see Maryland Roziers) who married a step-daughter of Charles Calvert and became an officer under the Maryland government. As Charles Calvert resided at one time in Northampton County, Colonel Benjamin Rozier was in all probability kin to the former minister of Hungar's Parish.

"Rozier was succeeded by John Armourier, of whom we know practically nothing.

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Rozier Family

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

3d Generation, John Rozier, II

He was the only child of Reverend John Rozier and his wife Elizabeth (Jane) Hillier. Lewis notes give his birth year as "after 1638". He died Sept/Oct 1705. John II married Mary Williamson. They had five children: David who married Sarah Sherwood; Elizabeth, who married ? Leftwich; Bridges, who married Elizabeth F.; John, who died before 1702; and Williamson (sister) who died before 1702.

In 1662, an entry appears in Westmorland Co., Book #5, on Page 142; "John Rosier 1450 acres 1662". This was probably the recording of the deed to Rosier's Refuge, 1450 acres, acquired at death of his father in 1660.

In Index to Marriages of Old Rappahannock and Essex Counties, Virginia, 1655-1900³⁶ appears: "Book D, Pg. 201. John Rosier, Westmoreland, married Mary, daughter of James Williamson."

In Marriages of Some Virginia Residents, 1607-1800³⁷, on Page 91 appears: Rozier, John. died 1705, son of Rev. John and Elizabeth Hillier of Westmorland Co. married before 11 November 1662, Mary Williamson, daughter of James, and Anne Underwood. Proven by court record of that date, Rappahannock County."

In Rosier-Rosebush Family³⁸, are: "The will of John Rosier (will Sept.-Oct. 1705) leaves land to Nathaniel Pope, clerk of Stafford and practitioner at law and the rest of the estate to wife who was Mary Pope, alias Bridges", and the chart A Bridge to France records in 1675 "John Rosier, witness, will of Lawrence Washington, Essex Co." and in 1697 "John Rosier, witness to the will of Lawrence Washington of Westmoreland County, Virginia." (The first Lawrence above was probably the brother of John Washington, Georg's great grandfather; the second Lawrence was probably John Washington's son), and

"Ann, named last in Capt. Upton's will (1651), probably the eldest daughter as she was married at this time and was wife of Dr. James Williamson . . . she had issue, a son William who died s.p. and two daughters, Margaret who married William Ball, Jr. and Mary who married John Rosier, son of Rev. John Rosier."

Author Waldo Rosebush also includes in his book reference to the will of Colonel William Underwood, Deed Book No. 5, Rappahannock County, an abstract of which appears in this paper below. And he mentions that after Reverend Rozier's death his widow married Anthony Bridges, the clerk of the county of Westmorland, who becomes the step-father of and the attorney for John Rozier, II.

In William and Mary College Quarterly³⁹, Vol. 4, under Washington and his Neighbors, "still further up the river (Potomac) beyond Nomini, resided about 1670, John Rosier, minister." Rev. Rosier died in 1660. Probably is John, Jr.

Mary Williamson's father was James Williamson and her mother was Anne Underwood. The Lewis notes state that they had three children: William who died in youth; Mary, who married John Rozier, Jr.; and Margaret, who married William Ball, Jr. James Williamson was the first settler in Isle of Wight, Va.

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Rozier Family

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

3d Generation, John Rozier, II (cont.)

In the Helms' notes we have this: "Mary Williamson's sister had three children, Margaret, Joseph, and Mary Ball. Mary Ball was the only child of an aged father's second marriage. An orphan at age 23, Mary married Augustin Washington, and was the mother of George Washington."

In The Mother of Washington and Her Times:¹⁵ "Col. William Ball came from England about the year 1650. Two sons William and Joseph of Epping Forest, and one daughter Hannah. George Washington was the grandson of this Joseph Ball through his youngest daughter Mary. She was born at Epping Forest, in Lancaster Va. in 1708 and not as is persistently stated by careless writers on Nov. 30, 1706. Of the ancestry of Mary Ball Washington's mother nothing is known. She was the 'widow Johnson (Mary Johnson) said to have descended from the Montagus of England and supposed to have been a housekeeper in Joseph Ball's family, and married to him after the death of his first wife."

In Burke's Presidential Families:¹⁶ "Cpt. Augustine Washington of Wakefield, Westmorland Co. Va. married 2ndly 6 March 1731, Mary (b. in Lancaster Co., Va.) only daughter of Col. Joseph Ball of Epping Forest, Lancaster Co. by his 2d wife Mary Johnson".

In George Washington, A Biography in His Own Words:¹⁷ "Joseph Ball married Mary Johnson (a widow) . . . Mary Ball was the sole offspring of the union . . . Mary Ball's father died when she was three . . . her mother married again . . . was widowed again . . . died when Mary Ball was twelve."

From the above, the question arises-- was it William Ball or was it Joseph Ball who was the father of Mary Ball, George Washington's mother. In either case, the relationship to the Rozier family would be the same.

In Wills of Rappahannock County, Va. 1656-1692:¹⁸ In this abstract of the legal Will of Colonel William Underwood, Deed Book No. 5, at pages 131, 201, 288, 297, 485, it is stated that William Ball, Jr. married Margaret Williamson, that John Rosier was married to her sister Mary Williamson, and that William Ball, Jr. was the son of Col. William Ball, great-grandfather of George Washington. This would show that Mary Williamson Rozier was the great aunt of George Washington.

In the same reference it is shown that William Ball, Jr. and his wife Margaret, and John Rosier and his wife Mary once owned a plantation on the north side of the Rappahannock River and that the plantation was commonly known as "Jackmans Folly".

On a following page will be found copies of the abstract of Col. Underwood's will, and other notations that verify the above material. Also will be a chart of the genealogical relationship of the Rozier family to the Washington ancestors. Included is a brief description of the residence of James Williamson, the father-in-law of John Rozier, II.

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Rozier Family

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

3d Generation, John Rozier, II (cont.)

Will of Colonel William Underwood. Deed Book No. 5, at pages 131, 201, 288, 297, 485, contains the following:

11 November, 1672: "William Ball, Jr.* who intermarried with Margaret Williamson & John Rosier who intermarried with Mary Williamson by virtue of the Will of Colonel William Underwood late of Rapp^a County deceased who did give and bequeath unto the said Margaret and Mary Williamson 882 acres of land and also confirmed by patent unto Margaret and Mary Williamson bearing date 11 March, 1662, may more fully appear and for as much as the said land is in joint tenant as by intermarrying as aforesaid and they are not willing the bounds thereof be laid out at present do agree &c."

*Son of Col. William Ball, great-grandfather of George Washington. Apparently the tradition that Col. Ball immigrated to Virginia with his family in 1650 is erroneous. He was designated as "William Ball of the province of Maryland planter," 15 February, 1650, when he was granted 420 acres of land, "Balleston, Lying on the West Side of Chesapeak Bay, and on the West side of a river in the said bay, called North West river beginning at a marked Locust Tree by the riverside running South West by the riverside for breadth Two hundred and five perches, to a Creek called Balls Creek, &c." *Liber No. 4 Folio 342, Land Commissioner's Office, Annapolis, Maryland.*

10 June, 1671: "William Ball of the Colony of Virginia planter," having delivered the above grant to the Secretary's office to be made void upon record, the said William Ball was granted that parcel of "Land now Resurveyed called (Ballistone) Lying in the County of Baltimore on the west Side of Chesapeake bay &c." *Liber No. 16 Folio 268, Land Commissioner's Office, Annapolis, Maryland.*

L. Will of
Colonel William Underwood

R. Information concerning

William Ball, Jr.
Margaret Williamson Ball
Mary Williamson Rozier
John Rozier
James Williamson
Anthony Bridges

6 *Wills of Rappahannock County, Virginia, 1656-1692*

26 February, 1673/4: William Ball, Jr. and Margaret his wife, of Lancaster County and John Rosier, and Mary his wife, of Westmoreland County, transferred to Thomas Kirton, Gent., of Rappahannock County, a plantation commonly called "Jackmans Folly," situated on the north side of Rappahannock River. The said land was granted Margaret and Mary Williamson, coheirs of James Williamson, of Rappahannock County, Gent., decd., by patent 1 May, 1665.

12 March, 1673: "Captain William Ball, Jr. Gent., and Margaret his wife, of Lancaster County, one of the Coheirs of James Williamson, Gent., late of the County of Rappahannock, decd., and Anthony Bridges, of Westmoreland County, Gent., Atty. for John Rosier, Gent., and Mary, his wife, of Westmoreland County, sold to Charles Dacres, Clerke, of Westmoreland County, 450 acres in Rappahannock County, whereof the said James Williamson died seized. Margaret and Mary Williamson had a brother, William Williamson, who died in his minority and they were the only heirs of the said James Williamson."

2 November, 1675: "Archidale Combes and Elizabeth his wife, formerly Elizabeth Underwood, widow of Major William Underwood, of Rappahannock County, decd. conveyed to Captain William Ball, of Lancaster County, her thirds in a tract of land given by Major William Underwood in his will unto the daughters of Mr. James Williamson, decd., Margaret and Mary Williamson."

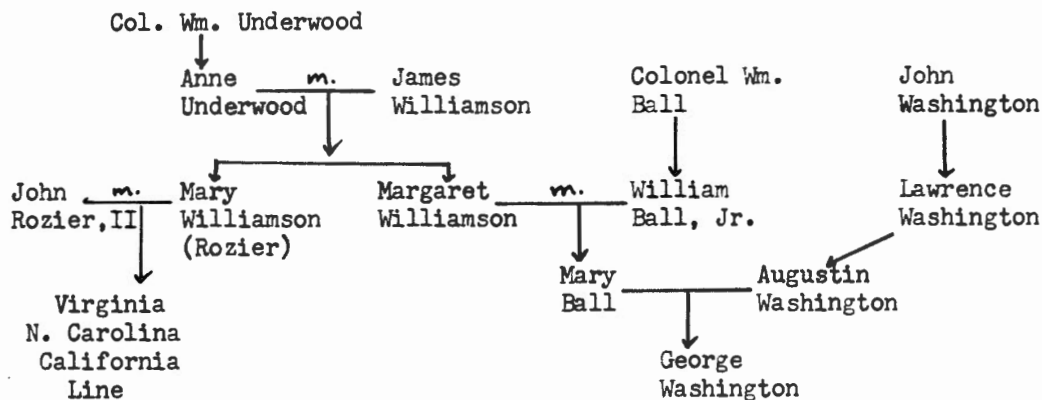
The residence of Mr. James Williamson of Rappahannock County, one of the principal land owners and a wealthy merchant, contained a chamber, hall, parlor and buttery as is gleaned from an inventory and appraisement of his estate according to an order "of the Court 23 day of January 1656 by Tho: Goodrich, Andrew Gilson, Will Johnson, Hum: Booth." Among other items in the inventory was "A small parcell of old books" and "Certificate for rights 26 persons." Pages 57-79 are in fragments on which the inventory and appraisement were recorded in Rappahannock Records, 1656-1664.

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Rozier Family

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIERs

3d Generation, John Rozier, II (cont.)

The following chart illustrates the connection of the Rozier family with the Washington family. John Washington was a neighbor of John Rozier, II and his father Reverend Rozier, Washington's plantation "Wakefield" lying just across Rozier's Creek from the Rozier plantation known as "Rozier's Refuge".



4th Generation, David Rozier, Sr.

On Pg. 91 of Marriages of Some Virginia Residents³¹ is found: "Rossier, David of Sittenbourne Parish, Old Rappahannock Co. Married before 24 November 1688 to Sarah Sherwood daughter of Phillip. Proven by Deed of that date, Essex County, and of 1715, Richmond County." He died in Virginia in 1748. His will was probated in 1760 in Halifax County, North Carolina. There was one son, David, Jr.

5th Generation, David Rozier, Jr.

David Rozier, Jr. was born in 1690 in Virginia.² He died in 1760 in Halifax County, North Carolina. David, Jr. was married twice. His first wife was Eleanor Field. In the Helms' notes Eleanor Field's father Abraham Field, II is mentioned along with a land patent: "Father Abraham Field II. Original patent on property dated 1661 comes to David Rozier, Jr. by deed of Gift in 1710 from daughters of Abraham Fields (co-heirs) to David Rozier, Jr. their brother-in-law." This patent establishes David, Jr.'s first marriage to Eleanor Field. In Index to Marriages of Old Rappahannock and Essex,⁴⁶ in Book D, Pg. 35 appears: "1689, David Rosier married Sara, daughter of Philip Sherwood."

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Rozier Family

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

4th and 5th Generations: David Rozier, Sr. (cont.)
David Rozier, Jr. (cont.)

In Marriages of Richmond County, Virginia,³¹ Page 173, is the following notation that indicates that David Rozier, SENIOR, was married twice: "Ross(i)er, David (16??-1698) married (1) by 24 November 1688, Sarah Sherwood, one of the four daughters of Philip Sherwood, deceased, of Rappahannock County whose land fell into Richmond County upon its formation in 1721. Their son and heir, David Rosser, conveyed his one fourth interest in the landed estate of his grandfather Sherwood in 1715 to Francis James (q.v.) p.102. COB #2, p. 301, 313; DB #7, p. 38; 23T 116, 207, 278. It appears very likely that Francis James married (2) Margaret (surname unknown), the widow of David Rosser, and to whom administration was granted on this estate 1 June 1698. David Rosser married (1) Sarah Sherwood; and (2) Margaret ____? ____*. Francis James married (1) Mary Sherwood; and (2) Margaret ____? ____*. I believe the aforementioned Margarets (*) are identical."

Phillip Sherwood, the father-in-law of David Rozier, Sr., was the father of four daughters: Sarah, Mary, (noted above) and Anne and Martha (below).

On page 47 of Marriages of Richmond County is: "Dabney, James married by 30 April 1690 Anne Sherwood, daughter of Phillip Sherwood of Rappahannock Co. whose land fell into Richmond Co. in 1692."

On Pg. 102, same reference, we have: "James, Francis (16??-1721) of Richmond, Westmorland, and King George Counties married (1) by 8 February 1685 Mary Sherwood eldest of the four daughters of Phillip Sherwood, decd. married (2) by October 1717 Margaret ____? ____ who is of record in King George County."

And on Page 129, same reference, is: Marshall, Thomas (16??-1704) of Rappahannock and Westmorland counties married before 8 February 1685, Martha Sherwood, daughter of Phillip Sherwood. Martha Sherwood Marshall married (2) by 25 July 1705 Alexander Thomson of Westmorland Co. Thomas and Martha (Sherwood) Marshall were the parents of John Marshall who died in Westmorland in 1704 bequeathing his plantation to his son William Marshall. The later moved to King and Queens County and conveyed the plantation in Westmoreland to his brother John Marshall."

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VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

4th Generation, David Rozier, Sr. (cont.)
and
5th Generation, David Rozier, Jr. (cont.)

David Rozier, Jr.'s second wife was Anne Merrit. In the following list of documents, Will #244 establishes Ann Rosher as the daughter of Mary Merritt, and Will #6 establishes Anna Rozar as David's wife. Since this was David's will, Anna must have been his second wife. In Deed Book #6, David, Sr. is listed as a shoemaker.

According to the Lewis notes, David Rozier, Jr. was the father of four children: Shadrack, Sarah, Reuben who married Mary Lee, and Mesheck.

Since the following abstracts of deeds and wills include in them the names of David Rozier, Sr., David Rozier, Jr., and Reuben Rozier, Sr., often in the same document, as well as other Rozier names, they have been lumped together here in one section covering the 4th and 5th generation. There are also numerous Merritt family members mentioned and Nathaniel Merritt can be identified as Ann Merritt Rozar's brother. Nathaniel Merritt and David Rozar, brothers-in-law, frequently witness each others papers.

In Genealogical Abstracts of Wills, 1758-1824, Halifax Co., North Carolina:¹⁸

Will #244, Page 66. MARY MERRITT Feb. 1778. daughters ANN ROSHER, Moley Merritt, Ann Merritt, Anne Merritt 1 featherbed and furniture each my son's daughter (his name not given) Sale (Merritt?) 1 heifer stock to be sold and money divided between my last 3 daughters: Moley, Ame, and Anne household furniture and brandy to be sold and money divided between my 3 daughters that is single daughters Amy and Ann Merrit all the money I now have and I give to all my children that is now left me 1 crown.

Wit. James Adams, Tabitha Adams
Extrs. SHADRICK ROSHER and Anne Marrit

Will #6, Page 4. DAVID ROZAR. 21 Sept. 1759. June Ct. 1760. lend wife half my orchard and half my plantation with housing and 100 acres on the upper side and all my household goods for Dowry, too cows and all the hogs (stock marks are described) son D...(?) ROZAR 150 acres between Saxe's branch and the ... branch that did belong to Evan Ragland son Shadrack Rozar all the land beside the Dowry land, 1 feather bed and furniture and 1 Gun my Pewter to be equally divided between Ann Rozar, Sarah Rozar, Shadrack Rozar, Meshack Rozar at the death or marriage of Ann Rozar daughter Sarah 75 acres joining Francis Redden and 1 cow and calf son Meshack all my land in Northampton Co. and the Dowry tract all my children must be at 18 years to receive his estate to wife 1 Work horse, 1/3 of the corn and 1/3 of the tobacco son Shadrack 1 mare my Tools to be sold and too mares in the woods to be sold at the discretion of extrs.

Wit. George Norwood, John Carpenter X his mark, John Carlisle X his mark.
Extrs. wife ANNA ROZAR, son REUBEN and SHADRACK

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Rozier Family

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

4th Generation, David Rozier, Sr. (cont.)
and
5th Generation, David Rozier, Jr. (cont.)

In Abstracts of Deeds, Edgecombe Precinct, Edgecombe County, N. C., 1732 through 1758 are the following records: (Northampton County is in N.C.)

In Deed Book #2, Pg. 300. Thomas Bradford, Sr. and Mary his wife of Northampton Co. to JOHN ROZAR of Edgecombe Co., 14 November 1754 100 pound sterling money of England 135 acres on the south side of Roanoke river joining Ogilbie Chokeott creek, Danbe and the sd. ROZAR all houses, orchards, gardens, etc.
Wit. DAVID ROZER, Mary Norwood N her mark, Mary Bradford I her mark.
Reg. Edge. Co. Aug. Ct. 1755 J. Montfort. C. Ct.

In Deed Book #2, Page 326. Thomas Bradford, Sr. and Mary his wife of Northampton Co. to RUBEN ROZAR of Edgecombe Co. ye 14 Nov. 1754 100 pounds sterling money of England 135 acres on the south side of Roanoke river, joining DAVID ROZAR, Oglesby, DAVID ROZAR, Sr. and Danber all houses, orchards gardens, etc.
Wit. DAVID ROZAR, Mary Norwood W her mark
Reg. Edge. Co. Aug. Ct. 1755. J. Montford C. Ct.

In Deed Book #3, Page 302. DAVID ROZAR and ANN his wife of Edge. Co. to Daniel Dabne (Co. not identified) 13 Sept. 1748 48 pounds current money of Virginia 370 acres on the south side of Moratock river, joining the river all houses, orchards, gardens, etc.
Wit. Nathaniel Merritt, Jasper Stuart, REUBEN ROZAR

In Deed Book #5, Page 175. George Brack and Jane his wife of Edge. Co. to DAVID ROZAR, Sr. (co. not identified) 17 May 1743 35 pounds current money of Va. 270 acres more or less on the south side of Moratock river part of a patent to John Broom 11 Nov. 1723
Wit. Evan Ragland, William Johnston, Nathaniel Merritt
Reg. Edge. Co. Aug Ct. 1743 R. Forster C. Ct.

In Deed Book #5, Page 368. James Lee and Frances his wife of Edge. Co. to DAVID ROZAR (co. not identified) 15 Dec. 1744. 60 pounds current money of Va. 300 acres on the south side of Moratock river all houses, orchards, gardens, etc. as by patent to Seth Hatcher 1 Feb. 1725.
Wit. Robert Harris, Evan Ragland, Nathaniel Merritt X his mark.
Reg. Edge Co. Feb. Ct. 1744. R. Forster C. Ct.

In Deed Book #6, Page 314. Daniel Danbe and Elizabeth his wife of Northampton Co. to DAVID ROZAR, SR. of Edge. Co., shoemaker 15 Aug. 1749 30 pounds current money of Va. 75 acres joining Jasper Stewart.
Wit. John Carpenter X his mark, Thomas Baker X his mark, Patent Powers
Reg. Edge. Co. June Ct. 1758 Joseph Montfort C. Ct.

Signed as witness to other people's wills (not involving their own property):
Reuben Rozar: 1747, 1748 (3), 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753, 1755 (2), 1756, 1757.
David Rozar: 1744 (2), 1745, 1747, 1750 (2), 1753, 1752 (2) 1754 (2), 1755, 1756.
Ann Rozar: 1751, 1755.

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Rozier Family

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

4th and 5th Generations. David Rozier, Sr. (cont.)
David Rozier, Jr. (cont.)

In Rosier-Rosebush Family,⁸ there is a reference: "John Rozier witnessed a will in Queen Anne's County, Maryland, in 1719." In the Lewis notes we have "John Rozier, Jr. had a son named John listed among his children as having died before 1702." In Edgecombe Co. Deed Book #2, Pg. 300, there is reference to "John Rozar of Edgecombe Co., 14 November 1754"

In Abstract of North Carolina Wills,²⁰ 1690-1760 is reference as follows: "Rosier, Nathaniel. Albermarle County. July 1, 1703, April 5, 1704".

Question: Who are John of Maryland and Nathaniel of Albermarle?

6th Generation. Reuben Rozier, Sr.

Reuben Rozier, Sr. was born circa 1742. He died between 1810 and 1820. His first Robeson County, N.C. record is a land grant dated 1772. He married Mary Lee.

In the Helms² notes may be found the above facts and the following: "Prior to the Revolution there is recorded in North Carolina Colonial Records a petition asking the Mother Country to consider lowering taxes on colonies. Among others is the name Reuben Rozier on this petition." "You can see by Census that Reuben, Senior and Reuben, Junior, both lived in Robeson County in 1790 and that in 1800 Reuben, Junior is dead and his wife Patience is head of his home. That in 1800 a Reuben Rozier over 45 is in Robeson and he would have to be Reuben, Senior."

"Then you note Reuben Rozier, Junior names Reuben Rozier as one of his executors--none of his children were old enough to be executors, and he did not have a son Reuben. I feel that he named his father along with his brother-in-law Thomas (Mussil)White and Joe Regan."

"Reuben Rozier, Sr. and Mary Lee had six children: Reuben Rozier, Jr; Rebecca, Briton, David, Elizabeth, and John."

"Mary Lee's father was John Lee as recorded in Robeson County Will Book 1 dated 1792. She was born c.1743, married c. 1763, and died between 1810-1820. Mary's siblings were Gemima Jackson, Rebecka Cinlarr, (Sinclair), Shadrack Lee, and Elizabeth Bullard. Her granddaughter was Rebecka Rozar and her grandson was Shadrack Bullard." "Father John Lee was a 3d cousin of George Washington."

In the Helms' notes is a copy of a notarized paper certifying that Reuben Rozier, Sr. was a member of the North Carolina Revolutionary Army from the 16th of July 1783 to the 19th of March 1784. (#4471 Rhuben Rosier and #4454 Rubin Rosier)

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VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

7th Generation. Reuben Rozier, Jr.

Reuben Rozier, Jr. was born in 1764. He married Patience Musselwhite before 1812. He died in Robeson Co. N.C. before 1800. (Will dated August 24, 1798). In the Lewis notes the children of Reuben Rozier, Jr. and Patience Musselwhite are listed as: Robert A. Rozar; Williamson Musselwhite Rozar; Willie (Wiley) Rozar; Charlotte Rozar; Martha Rozar; and Shadrack Rozar. He died at age 36.

Reuben Rozier, Jr. was also a member of the North Carolina Revolutionary Army.

In his will (Robeson County Will Book 1, p. 52, 53) he stipulates:

"I leave in the hands of my well beloved wife during her life the plantation where I now live on and all the rest of my property for to raise the children on, but if . . . marries and they . . . of the property more than needful it is my desire that the executors should prevent and after her decease the estate to be equally divided among my children Williamson Mussil Rozar and Wile Rozar Charlit Rozar Martha Rozar Robert Rozar and Shadrack Rozar . . . "

In her notes, Mrs. C. R. Helms remarks "The decendants of Patience Musselwhite and Reuben Rozier, if known, would undoubtedly fill a large and interesting volume. They include the Rozier, Lewis, McGeachey, Colemans, Helms, Norments, Lytchs, Pooles, Powers, and many other families." After this generation the family proliferated and started migrating until it now (1984) reaches from Massachusetts to Hawaii in numbers in the thousands.

Patience Musselwhite was born in 1767. She married Reuben, Jr. in 1785. She died c. 1812. She had six brothers: Milbes and Nathan who fought in the American Revolution, and Thomas, Jesse, Alex, and James. Her five sisters were: Winifred, Ellen, Bridget, Mary, and Amelia. Her mother's name was Mary.

According to Mrs. Helms: "In Robeson there were two septs of Whites. One from the sept that had been honored after a family members valor on the field of Mussilbourg, September 10, 1547. To distinguish the Whites, one added the Mussil."

According to Encyclopedia Brittanica²¹ "Musselburgh. A suburban area to the east of Edinburgh. The latter distinction (Port of Leith as a seaside bathing resort) passed to its eastern neighbor, Portobello, while the horse races were transferred to Musselburgh, 2 miles east of Portobello. . . . Musselburgh, long famed for its mussels and the distich:

Musselburgh was a burgh when Edinburgh was nane.

Musselburgh'll be a burgh when Edinburghs gane.

The "burgh" of Musselburgh meant mussel bank, not burgh in the sense of 'town'".

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Rozier Family

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

8th Generation: Wiley Rozier (Willie, Wile)

In the 1850 Mississippi census of Carroll County²⁸ Wiley Rozier gives his birth place as North Carolina; age 63 (birth year: 1787); wife's name as Mary, 59 years; and Thomas, 30; Nelson, 21; Alfred, 18. Sons William M. and John were in Texas by 1837. The whereabouts of son's Owen and Earl is unknown. He was a farmer. Wiley Rozier's parents were Reuben Rozier, Jr. and Patience Musselwhite. On Reuben Rozier's will his heir's are listed--second name being 'Wile'.

Wiley Rozier is listed in the North Carolina²⁹, U. S. Census of 1820 as Willey Roshier; in 1830 as Willey Roshier; in the 1840 Mississippi Census as Wiley Rozur; and in 1850 as Wiley Rozur. In the Helms' notes heirs of Reuben, Jr. were: "William, William M., Robert, etc." In the Lewis notes the children of Reuben and Patience include "Willie (Wiley) Rozar". In another list he is William Musselwhite Rozier. The lists include a brother Williamson Musselwhite Rozier who is included on the 1840 Mississippi Census, but in Coahoma County, not Carroll Co. It is the opinion of the compiler that the original name of Wiley was William, and that his nick-name gradually evolved to his regularly used name, Wiley. In the 1860 Mississippi Census, Carroll Co. is listed Henry Musselwhite, 25, laborer, born in North Carolina.

In the 1860 Mississippi Census³⁰ Wiley Rozier is not listed. Listings do include A. M. Rozier, 28, a farmer born in North Carolina (probably Alfred); E. A. Rozier, 22, female (probably his wife) and J. A. Rozier, female, 3. Also listed is E. L. Rozier, 35, a farmer born in North Carolina (probably Earl); Ann Rozier, 33, born in Alabama (probably his wife) and the following all born in Mississippi: John P., male, 8; M.P., female, 6; S. H., female, 4; and A. E., female, 1. In the 1870 Census is listed Charlotte Rozer, female, 30; and two male Rozers Cato, 12; and William, 4.

By using the above Census information³¹ and other known facts, the birth years of the 7 sons of Wiley and Mary Rozier are probably as follows: John, 1815; William Milton, 1819; Thomas, 1820; Earl, 1825; Nelson 1829; Alfred, 1832; Owen, "?".

About John Rozier: In his letter to the Comptroller of Texas, William Milton Rozier says; "So we scattered to the places we called our homes. I returned to Texana to where my Brother lived John P Rozier and I again volunteered under Capt Clark Owens of Texana". A copy of John's discharge papers from the Republic of Texas Army shows:³² "Said John P. Rozier was born in Robertson Co., N. C., is twenty-two years of age, five feet 11 inches high, dark complexion, black eyes, black hair and a farmer. (No doubt Robeson Co., as there is no Robertson Co.)

Records of the Port of San Francisco³⁴ show that John Rozier disembarked at that city in 1851. Another brother, Owen R. Rozier is recorded as having been in Stockton, California, in 1854.

U. S. Federal Census of 1850 lists John P. Rozier, age 35, in Texana, Texas, Jackson County. A white male born in North Carolina. A Druggist. Real Estate, \$3,000.

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Rozier Family

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

9th Generation: William Milton Rozier

William M. was born in Robeson County, North Carolina in 1819. He was married in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1857. He died in Columbia, Tuolumne Co., California.

William probably lived in Robeson County on a farm until sometime after 1830 when he moved with his parents to Carroll County, Mississippi, about 300 miles north of New Orleans. He lived in Carroll County both before and after fighting in the Texas Revolution against Mexico. He went to Texas in 1837, joined the Army of the Republic of Texas in 1839 and again under President Lamar in 1841. He was captured by the Mexicans in 1841, marched to Mexico City, and then liberated there in 1842. He returned to Texas and joined General Somervell's famous expedition against Mier. For a more graphic description of his years in Texas read the copy of his letter following. He took up a land bounty in Bell County, Texas, fifty miles north of Austin, lost it by tax default, later redeemed the default, but never returned to claim the land.²⁵

He married Margaret Doyle Eastwood in New Orleans prior to 1853. With his wife and her small child, Anne Marie, he left New Orleans via ship for Panama where they crossed the Isthmus on muleback. Travel from Panama to San Francisco was by ship, then by river boat to Stockton and then overland to Columbia, where they arrived in 1854.

Once in gold country he was a miner and a prospector and then a farmer. Marie Rozier, of Tuolumne, California, in 1983 wrote this about her grandfather, William M.:

"Grandfather Rozier--I know he was in the Mexican War, captured, and I think I told you that story. I suppose he was a miner and prospector when they first came to Columbia. He always seemed to have a place for a home for his family. People who are gone now but to whom I used to talk, always seemed to remember him as the man who had so many goats. They raised all their food."

"Granny Rozier, his wife was the mainstay of the family, and of Columbia, I think. She assisted at all the births, with, or without a doctor. She not only took care of the mother and child, but of the children, and the house, and was a hard worker doing the cooking, washing, and managing. She had the love of the town. She could sew, keep house, and was a hard worker. Those who remembered her, always spoke lovingly of her. She taught her midwife ability to her daughters."

"Aunt Annie, (Ann Marie) the eldest, who was an Eastwood, but knew only Grandpa Rozier as a father, was married at 19, and her husband was a millman at the gold mills, too. They lived at the different mining towns bought the big ranch at Arrastraville. She cooked for the miners, and also helped with births

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Rozier Family

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

9th Generation: William Milton Rozier (cont.)

wherever she could. She, too, raised a large family (Cullars) and they all looked after her when the father died, that is they helped with the ranch and orchard and potato raising, and did their share always. I think everyone did in those days."

William and his wife lived in Columbia (Yankee Hill) until 1893 when they died within three months of each other. They are buried in the Columbia cemetery, the site marked by a monument donated by family members in 1983. They had three children: Robert Wiley, Alfred William, and Mary Elizabeth.

According to Marie Rozier, William Milton Rozier had three brothers, Owen, Earl, and John. John also fought in Texas. Earl and John settled in the southern United States. Owen--no record. Mississippi census of 1850 lists Thomas, Nelson, and Alfred. There may also have been an Edward and an Arnold.

In The Saga of Old Tuolumne, page 212 is the following:²⁶

"In a Sonora newspaper bearing the date September 30, 1854: The Negro Steve, the property of Mr. Tucker, of Arkansas, arrested some weeks ago under the fugitive slave law, and confined in the jail of this county for safe keeping, was taken therefrom last week by O. R. Rozier, the agent of the owner, who intended to leave with him on the steamer of today for the states. Steve, however, gave the agent the slip in Stockton, and has not been heard of since. It is supposed that he is somewhere in this vicinity. The Negro took with him the gold watch of Mr. Rozier, some thirty dollars in cash, and a draft on Moses Greenwood and company of New Orleans, for Five hundred dollars. Mr. Rozier is now in Stockton where he awaits information of the fugitive.

"Such instances as the above were numerous during the gold stampede; however, the majority of the Negroes in the Southern Mines paid for their freedom with their hard-earned gold, and as in Tom Gillman's case not once, but twice."

Madeline Rozier Poe, now (1982) living in Sonora gives a different version: "Steve, the Negro, was a freed slave, and the Sonora people did not want him returned either to Tucker or to Arkansas. Several of them went to Stockton, treated Rozier to too much whiskey and saw to it that Steve got away!"

According to Rozier family tradition, William M. was a survivor of the famous Black Bean Incident. In this action President Houston placed General Somervell in charge of 700 men in an expedition to drive the Mexican Army out of the Rio Grande Valley. After considerable success, the group split with 300 men invading Mexico and attacking the town of Mier. They were opposed by two thousand Mexican troops and defeated, the survivors taken prisoner and force marched to Mexico City and then to the dungeons of Perote Castle in the cold mountains on the road to Veracruz. An escape attempt was foiled and General Santa Anna ordered the execution of every tenth man. Choice of those ten was made by drawing black beans from a bowl of mixed black and white beans.

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VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

9th Generation. William Milton Rozier (cont.)

Obviously, William M. survived. How he managed can be found in the copy of his personal letter immediately following. The letter is typed with spelling errors and lack of punctuation exactly as the long-hand original was written. The original is held in the Texas State Archives, Austin. A copy of the original is in my correspondence files. The letter:

Tuoulmne Cala Sept 27th 1873

To The Hon State Comptroler

Dear Sir

As I dont know your name I address you in your official capacity

I have learned that the legislature of Texas has made Some provisions to remunerate vetrans for past sirvisses and knot knowing whether I am conciddered one or not I have concluded to State my case to you See how The Stands I went to Texas in 1837 I served as a ranger with Jacob hendrix Hugh Cameron and Learner on the South western fruntear in 1839 and was wounded at the Casso Blanco on the Nieudces River that year James Pnsby was commitioned to raise a copaney of rangers in 1841 by Mirabo B Lamar Then president of Texas I joined his company on the 2 day of April 1841 it nombered 62 me 32 white men and 30 lipan indians we proseded from Goliad west with the promis of \$25 per month and all that we could take from the enemy we beet up and down the neiudces River and west of that river until The indians became indignat and left us Then contention got up in The company and it Split up one Kirby leading the mutineers of on Their own hook There was only 14 men Captain and all left Kirby and all The ballance that left The companey were Killed by Col Berrey dragoons the Mexican Commander We would not go to the Settlements just Then for fear Those fellows would charge us with cowardice So we ventured further west and on The 14th day of June 1841 we fell in with Berrey ...s Mexican dragoons at the Santarose water holes on the Matamorez road They so greatly outnumberedrin us ware captured on the Conditions that we would be Treated as prisoners of war and ride our own horses to the City of Matamorras but they would have broke faith with us had not Capt Onsby had his commition with and have shot us to a man we ware carried to Matamores and put on a ditch to labor on Scant rations until our Shirts gave out and we could not Stand the Sun no longer naked So we refused to work longer and then they Started us to the intearier by the way of Comargo and Monterey In Monterey A...td had us put in hand cuffs and

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VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

9th Generation. William Milton Rozier (cont.)

and ordered to be marched So to the City of Mexico both the captain of the gard Saw that it imposable ever to make the Trip in that fix So he had the cuffs taken off of the men we then reached Saltillo we there met farin friends who planed our escape and furnished us with Morphine to put in Muscal to dost the Soldiers we did So but we over done the thing and They would not Sleep So we had to fight and we did fight on the Knight of 14th of September at Agua Nieudo 8 leags from Saltillo we jumped the gard and killed eight of them dead on the ground we then fled to the Mountains but was followed the next day by the infantrey and cavelrey we there lost Dan Davis Killed Stephen Farrow wounded adn retaken David Fowler wounded and taken Ballard retaken the ballance Scattered in the mountains but finally all was retaken except Capt Onsby and one Cissel The Capt went to Sanlouisobispo and was Sent to New Orleans by one Mr Davis an english merchand lving there at that time the ballan of us ware finaley geathered in Saltillo and Started again to the City of Mexico we made the trip that time and confined in that city 4 months and then liberated on the 14th day of June 1842 by the interferance of Woddy Thompson the game Cock of South Carolina The American minister that came in the place of judge Ellis We then ware sent home all the Texas prisoners to gether Santafee prisoners and all we landed on the Strand near McKinneys and Williamses in the latter part of August 1842 the most horrrable looking Set of men that was looked upon by Texians old rags and pieces of hats and brich clouts I found my captain in Houstain he There gave us our discharge what left of us we took them to president Houston and all we could get out of him was by The Eternal God boys there is not a dollar in the Treashery I have to get my grog on a credit Those claims are uceless as brown paper So we scattered to the places we called our homes I returned to Texana to whare my Brother lived John P Rozier A miserable broken down moving skellatin out of the 4 months we ware confined in the City of Mexico I layed three months of that time in the hospital when judge Robeson and the court was taken I volenteared at Texana under Capt Clark L Owens to go after Them but the waters ware so high that we ware two late Capt Wells and Capt Paint Colwell had pushed them over the reogrande prisoners and all we returned home and soon we ware called on to join the famous Summervill expadition I again volenteared under Capt Clark L Owens of Texana but was prevented from going by Sickness If I could have went I should have bin one of the Meyer prisoners with Fisher and Green or lost my in the famous battle of Meyor this my last raid in Texas I will give you the names of my comrads that lived to return from prison out of the 32 white men Capt James Ponsby John Jimeson Ezekil Ballard Stephen Dinkins Eprraim McDowel James Fowler and one damd cur that turned traitor and joined the Mexican army by the name of Mcafety my self last Wm M Rozier for all this six years the flower of my life I spent to mintain the indapendance of Texas I have

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VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA ROZIER

9th Generation, William Milton Rozier (cont.)

never received one dollar all the four going I can establish here by W Truzon one of the Meyer prisoners and James More one of the Santafee prisoners if 'Andrew Neil attorney at law of Seguin he can tell the Same thing and maney other old Texians I supos that still lives but I supose that I am the onley one of the Onsby that lives for I was the youngest member of the companey and I have not heard of one of them for over twenty five years please give this careful thought and write what is my chances Address Wm M Rozier Tuolumne County Calafornia Columbia Postoffice To the State Comptroler Yours with Regards

Wm M Rozier

10th Generation: Robert Wiley Rozier
Alfred William Rozier
Mary Elizabeth Rozier

Robert Wiley Rozier. He was born in Columbia, California, January 21, 1855. He died in 1925. Robert Wiley married Mary Jane Cole of Ohio. She was born December 22, 1865. They had ten children: William, Maude, Francis, Clinton, Romeo, Rowena, Dolly, Albert, Mabel, and Laura. Following is a quote from Marie Rozier of Tuolumne:

"Robert Wiley Rozier, my father's brother was a farmer, horse raiser, trader, and itinerant farm worker. He used to take the family with him in a house wagon, and they would work from one field to the next. They lived on the outskirts of Stockton, had horses, and he had a business hauling fertilizer to places where he had orders. He called his business Lawn Dressing. Was a good provider, and he and Aunt May raised fine children. Very dependable person."

Alfred William Rozier: He was born in Columbia, California, December 1, 1856. He died in 1939. Alfred William married Mary Elizabeth Hartman who was born in Weaverville, California, february 28, 1875. They were the parents of four daughters and one son: Madeline Margaret (1902); Marie Elizabeth (1904); Frances Rosalie (1908); Juanita Valentine (1912); and Alfred William, Jr. (1909) who died at one month.

About her father, Marie Rozier states: "Occupation of my father, Alfred William Sam Rozier. Well, as a young man he went to what they called the sand plains and worked harvesting hay and grain. He even was as far as Contra Costa County and worked for John Muir when he was 19. He used to tell how one day in June he drove the team to the unloading place, and John Muir was there. He then told Mr. Muir 'This is my last load. I start home tomorrow'. Muir: 'But you can't go, Sam!' Sam: 'I have to go, the mountains are calling me.' Muir: 'Dang it all, they are calling ME.' But Dad did not stay, so no farmer in the family.

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Rozier Family

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA-CALIFORNIA ROZIER

10th Generation Continued: Robert Wiley Rozier
Alfred William Rozier
Mary Elizabeth Rozier

"I really don't know what all he did as a young man. By the time my mother met him, he was a millman in the gold mills. That meant he kept the stamps pounding and the gold being produced from the ore. He must have worked underground some when young, but he always said he worked on top, and not down in the mines. Most mines who had good honest workers paid well I suppose. But Dad used to say, the stock holders had to be paid first. There are many mills that still owe him money, but 'Mother kept us out of the poorhouse' I used to say when discussing mines, as I knew how poor we were until Mother went around with a petition asking for Dad to be made post master here. So from 1915 to 1923 he was Postmaster, and then ass't postmaster for a few years.

"He was a staunch Democrat, and 'if you were not a Democrat, you were not anybody.' He could argue politics always. A great reader." Upon his death he was succeeded in his postal job by his widow Molly Hartman Rozier.

Mary Elizabeth Rozier (Gribble/Stanley): She was born in Columbia, California, May 5, 1859. She died in San Jose, California, November 11, 1924. She was a nurse-midwife, and was twice married. She married William Gribble in Tuolumne County on June 3, 1879. He was a blacksmith, born in Grant County, Wisconsin in 1850. His father, Arthur Gribble and mother Ann Kaiser were both born in Camborne, Cornwall, England in 1827, 1829 respectively. His grandfather was Arthur Gribble, born 11 January 1801 in Camborne. His gt. grandfather was Arthur Gribble, born in Camborne on 16 November 1740. His gt. gt. grandfather was John Gribble, born in Camborne in the late 1600's. Mary Rozier and 'Billy' Gribble had five children: Elizabeth Nadine (1879); James Arthur (?); William (1883, died in infancy); Viola Frances (1885) and Alfred Milton (?).

Mary Elizabeth's second husband was Walter Stanley. He was born at Pt. Reyes, California in 1860. He died April 12, 1945 in Pasadena, California, and is buried in Petaluma, California. A grave stone records Harvey Stanley, died Feb. 16, 1862 (his father?) 49 yrs; Harriet Stanley Smith (sister?) and Walter Charles Stanley, 1860-1945. As a mining engineer, his work required that the family move frequently and they lived at many places in the California "gold country" and in southern Oregon. Mary Elizabeth and children finally settled in San Jose, in 1900. They had five children: Alice Mabel (1891); Marguerite R. (1893); Hazel (1896); Harriet (1898); and Helen (1900)

Mary Elizabeth Rozier was an active member of Women's Christian Temperance Union, and followed the Christian Science religion. She claimed psychic powers. She is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, San Jose.

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149 Newell Circle
Napa, California, 94558
June 28, 1986

Dear Ms. Strickland

Ms. Patricia Edwards and I recently discussed genealogical material concerning your on-going project to restore south-eastern Mississippi records. That is really a large and very worth while activity and I hope I may eventually be of help.

Wiley Rozier of Carrollton, Carroll Co. MS (my gt. gt. grandfather) had seven sons, four of which neither I nor other family members have ever been able to find records for. There is a feeling, however, that they migrated to the Gulf Coast as many other Rozier family descendants did. Wiley Rozier's family came originally from Robeson County, North Carolina about 1835 to Carroll Co. The four missing sons are Thomas Rozier (b. 1820), Nelson Rozier (b. 1829), Alfred Rozier (b. 1832), and Owen Rozier (b. 1827). It is known that Owen was in California about 1852 but also that he returned to the Southeast.

Perhaps you have some record of these missing brothers that you could share with me?

The other three brothers were William M. Rozier (b. 1819 - d. 1893) my gt grandfather who had over 200 descendants; John Paul Rozier who migrated to Texas; and Earl (Erella' - b. 1827) whose descendants now live in Greenwood, MS and in Anniston and Mobile, AL.

I have extensive genealogical records (proven) of the Rozier family of Robeson Co., N. C. extending back through Virginia to London, and some records of the original Desrosierres family in France. I would be happy to share these when they become pertinent to your project--or before, if you wish.

I have sent a query to the "Branches and Twigs" in the Sun Daily at Ocean Springs asking for information about my missing gt. uncles. Patricia Edwards suggested that I ask you to watch for the query and then post it at the Pascagoula genealogical center!

I wish you great success in your project and I hope I will be able to someday contribute to it.

Sincerely



Robert O. Schnabel

Bob would like to contact
someone interested in Elias
Rozier of 1830 Hancock Co, MS
for the purpose of connecting
that family to the other
Roziers of the Southern U.S.